our temples and other religious places. We should also be as much concerned about our animal habitat and their lives because I, as a Zoologist feel that. I protect not only the rights of human beings, but it extends to all animals, visible and not so visible. I think it is very grave situation. As Manekaji has said, money is available, but there is no will and there are vested interests in it. I also have my information about it and there are vested interests working on it and pressurising. It is a good suggestion that the Standing Committee on Environment and Forests should visit and prevail upon the authorities, specially the Chief Minister that it will be a dead loss not only to the State of Gujarat but to the country and the world because we cannot just pick up the animals and put them into a new place. They get traumatised. This is another point. Even if you try to do that, they get traumatised. In the case of *Cheetah*, they were brought from Africa. They could not breed over here. Even plants get traumatised; even orchids get traumatised. So, animals will get traumatised. So, the best thing is, as suggested, the Committee should visit. This is a direction from the Chair which I hardly ever give.

SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR: Madam, I am grateful that you have associated yourself with it

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I owe it to my own commitment in life. Now, we will take up Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1998. Shri Yashwant Sinha.

THE APPROPRIATION (NO. 3) BILL, 1998

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Madam Deputy Chairman, I beg to move:

> "That the Bill the authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1998-99, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Madam, the Bill provides for withdrawal out of the Consolidated Fund of India of the amount required to meet the expenditure for the year 1998-99 charged on the Fund as well as the Grants voted by the Lok Sabha. Gross disbursement of seven lakh four thousand two hundred and twenty two crores and sixty nine lakh rupees are provided in the Bill. After setting of recoveries and receipts taken in reduction of expenditure, the receipts of departmentally-run commercial undertakings and transactions in the nature of amount of accounting adjustments, the net provisions aggregate to two lakh sixty seven thousand nine hundred and twenty seven crores of rupees. Out of this, seventy two thousand and two crores of rupees are for financing Centre, States and union Territory Plans. The provision for non-Plan expenditure includes forty one thousand two hundred crores of rupees for Defence, seventy two thousand and twenty five crores of rupees for subsidies, seven thousand three hundred and forty two crores for pensions, twenty one thousand and forty six crores of rupees for grants and loans for States and Union Territory Governments and the balance of twenty nine thousand three hundred and twelve crores of rupees are for other non-Plan expenditure including expenditure of the Union Territories without legislatures and grants and loans of foreign governments. The amounts provided in the Bill are inclusive of the sums already authorised in the Appropriation Vote on Account Act, 1998 (No. 5) of 1998. The House has already had a general debate on the budget. I would not, therefore, enumerate the details of the Budget provisions and shall deal with the points that might be made by the Hon. Members of the House in the coruse of the discussion.

Madam, I move.

The quesiton was proposed.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala): Madam Deputy Chairperson, the hon.

Finance Minister has moved the Appropriation Bill as a follow up of Budget and because of the Constitutional obligations. While looking at the Bill as a whole where money has been siphoned to other Ministeries for expenditure, certain basic questions have to be raised because the amount comes to seven lakh four thousand two hundred and twenty two crores and sixty nine lakhs of rupees. Naturally, you have to find this money through the Budget. Of course, you have presented the revenue receipts and expenditure. So, the basic quesiton which I am raising is: While you are presenting this Appropriation Bill with a huge amount and also the Budget provisions of the revenue which has been projected, will you be able to meet the target? This is one question I am raising. As the present situation goes, I am afraid looking at the last year's experience where a rosy picture had been presented in the Budget without taking into consideraiton the real situation of that year at last, you have landed in a big deficit which you could not meet, even for day-to-day expenditure. Rather, I should say that whatever has been projected has no relation with the reality. That is hanging over to this year also. I agree to that. When you speak of the revenue which you are earning, there must be some reality. Here, I am afraid, Mr. Finance Minister, especially when inflation rate is going up and when the rupee value in relation to dollar is fluctuating and going beyond your control. I am afraid that your expectations of the revenue may not reach the level you thought of. Of course, you are good enough to make some announcement of concessions, in the other House and I appreciate that. I am not questioning that but, at the same time, you have to make some kind of adjustments in the expenditure also. You have to look into it in depth where you can make a cut, where you can save money, where you can introduce austerity and where you can reduce the expenditure. This is a major quesiton I am raising, apart from increasing your revenue. Sir, the strength of Indian economy is agriculture. We have achieved self-sufficiency in food production and the target of agricultural production was raised to 199 million tonnes in the year before last. This shows the strength of Indian economy and the contribution made by the Indian farmers. If we take into consideraiton the various economies of the world, whether it is of America or of Canada or any other developed countries, we may find that their inherent strength comes from agriculture. We can also seen some of the economics of the eastern countries which have collapsed now. I would like to cite one articel written in an international magazine. This article tells us how Japan in facing abundance of produciton and how their large BOP has created problems for them. Now Japan is in a crisis. It has been analysed by many economists. Mere interest in production will not save the nation. We can see this from what has happened in the eastern countreis. This may include Malaysia or any other countries. I do not want to go into all these details. you know all these things very well. They did not sustain their agricultural economy and this is the main problem which has been exhibited there. So, mere industrial production will not save the nation. So, agriculture is a major source of the Indian economy. This has to be strengthened. In this connection, I would like to say something about your approach. You have said in your budget Speech that you will give all encouragement to farmers, this and that. But, I am afraid, Mr.Minister, if you look at the Electricity Authority Bill, if you take subsidy on fertilisers which I will deal with separately, this does not indicate that. In the Electricity Bill a special clause was there to harm farmers - no free electricity to farmers. Why can you not give at least some flexibility to the States? So, this is the approach of the Government whether you agree with me or not, I would like to say that agriculture is the basic component of the

Indian economy. How can you tell the State Governments that they should not give free electrucity to farmers? I am not questioning the Bill. I am only questioning your attitude. When we take fertilisers, I agree that there is a component of subsidy. Many modern economists, the so-called economists have attacked it. I do not agree with them. 3.00 P.M You have to make more specific programme, of course, with co-operation from others but you have to look at the natural calamities which come occasionally and destroy the whole thing and as a result, the farmer will be in distress. So, without strengthening the agricultural economy and the agricultural production, the Indian economy may not be able to withstand the international global pressure and the inflationary pressure. This is one point I am making. I hope the hon. Minister will take this into account.

Madam, the industrial production has come down to 4.2% I am not blaming you. You do not think that I am blaming you. But, you have to take corrective measures. It has come down to 4.2% means, it has affected the whole economy. So, we have to take corrective measures. What are the corrective measures to take for industrial production? The Hon. Minister is sitting here and his Budget is very meagre and he is presiding over a big empire. His Budgetary provision is very limited. What I am saying is, industrial production has to increase provided you give a direction in such a manner so that our industry can play a global role. Eveybody speaks of competitiveness in playing a global role. Who can play it? Do you think that our Indian industrialists are strong enough to compete in the world? Today, the bureaucracy, especially, in the Ministries - not you people and not politicians - always takes shelter under competition. Competition with whom and what for? Is our industry strong enough to compete with anybody? So, in the name of competition, you always try to favour for import as well as the so-called foreign investment. This tendency has to be checked. I am only saying about the policies. In the name of competition, do not kill the Indian industry. That is what I am saying. I can give any number of examples. Madam, here, I wanted to project a case, case which the hon. Minister is also very well aware of. Some of our industries try to become a multi-national. It is good. They wanted to play with global giants. What had happened to the ITC? Do not think that I am blaming you on that point. I am only showing the inherent defect in the system. ITC was a big media blitz for a long time and the Chief Executive was in jail. Every thing has happened. Today, an American court says that all wrong information has been supplied to the Enforcement Directorate and they acted upon it and they are all exonerated. When our Indian industry is playing an international game or when they wanted to expand their business to other countries to become multi-national, what should be your attitude? What should be the attitude of the Government? I believe the Government should take a positive approach. There, you need to amend some law. I am glad that the hon. Minister has declared that the FERA is going to be amended. The Farmer Minister said this and you also declared it. Definitely it needs some kind of amendment to the existing legislation. I do not want to blame the officers also. They all go by law. It is for us to amend the law. Madam, FERA must be amended by this Parliament. It is pending. Unfortunately, when a U.S. court said that ITC is right rather than the person who has made all kinds of wrong things before the E.D. I believe and I have no hesitation to say that BAT is playing a havoc with Indian Company. They do not want a company like ITC to grow beyond Indian territory. They do

not want the ITC to become a global player. They wanted to capture and they wanted to take-over the ITC. To take over the ITC they used a stooge in America. That stooge stays in America, the so-called N.R.I. They used his conduct and made a complaint and made all this kind of things. And it has been proved that the ITC was not at fault. I am only making a point to draw your attention to amend the law which enables the Indian industry to play a global game. That is what I am making. The old legislations were made at a time when foreign exchange was in scrarcity. That period was different. Today, we are living in another period. So, the law must be changed. You made a very important announcement in the Income Tax Legislation. It is good. It is welcome. But, it needs some kind of a follow-up action through an amendment. It is necessary.

Otherwise, an ordinary officer cannot go by a speech of a Minister in the Parliament. It needs some kind of amendment in the regulation or the rules or somewhere. It needs follow-up action. When there is no follow-up action, it will not give you better results.

This is the only thing I wanted to make on that point. Then, you have to reduce the economic burden or the financial burden. How to reduce it? One is debt burden. I do not accuse that you are responsible for external debt or the debt which has taken away almost 38% to 40% of your total revenue. I am not blaming you. It has come up in the system. Today, as a Minister, it is your duty to reduce the debt burden. How to reduce the debt burden? It is a very important factor which I am making and you have to take a decision on that.

THE DEPUTY CHARMAN: Mr. Ravi, just one minute. Let me find out who has brought a cell phone into the House.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: (Maharashtra) I am sorry. Madam, it is I.

मैडम। मैं ऑफ कर देता हूं।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sanjay, this is the third time happening like this. Either you deposit it here and take in the evening or...

श्री संजय निरूपम: मैडम, मैं हमेशा आॅफ कर देता हूं, आज पहली बार भूल गया।

उपसभापति: आपको लाना ही नहीं चाहिए हाउस में।

You are not allowed to bring a cellular phone because it will disturb others. If you are so busy and you need to contact somebody, please sit in the lobby and contact because it is not permitted in the Parliament precincts also.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: I will not repeat next time.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Thank you. Madam, so the debt burden—international and Indian—as you know, is, as per the record, $ 90 billion and the debt ratio has come down to 21%. Our expectation is to bring it down to 18%, as I read it. So, will you able to do that because of the present situation? If you can do it, I will appreciate you, if your can reduce the debt ratio as much as possible, because you know since 1995 an attempt was being made to reduce the debt burden gradually. I am afraid, because of the World Bank's diktats and what position they take, it increases. As you know, Mr. Minister, the World Bank always gives us a piece of advice as to how to run our economy. Once the American Senate or the Government of America decided to impose sanctions, the World Bank acted first. What does it mean? What is the logic? The first action came from the World Bank saying, "Yes. We are stopping this and this." Does it mean that the World Bank is another arm of the U.S.? It proved so. So, the advice from the World Bank always comes from the America's vested interests. So, this is a fact which you always take into account. We have to reduce the debt burden somehow or other. For that, one way is,

I suggest, reduce the import and increase the export.

Then, hon. Minister, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that trade gap has widened very much. Look at the export. It has come down to 4 per cent from 22 per cent. I am afraid, it may decline further and may go down to zero point. In that case it would be most disastrous because export is going down and import is going up. So, the only way to reduce the trade gap is to reduce the import. Here, I would like to draw your attention to the total import figures—capital goods: 16.8 per cent, food and other inevitable items: 4.3 per cent, crude petroleum products: 24.4 per cent, fertilizers: 3.1 per cent, newsprint: 1.3 per cent, of course, it must be so, otherwise nobody will read it. But, Sir, the other bulk items constitute 21.3 per cent and other items constitute 25.1 per cent. It means 50.4 per cent items are other items. What are they? I would like you to have a look at it. Definitely you tried to prune it. The first item is inevitable, inevitable for the nation to run. But, as far as other items, which constitute 50.4 per cent, are concerned I would request you to find out as to where you can reduce the import because India is gradually switching over to a consumer State. Consumerism is taking over. The advertisements through electronic media are making new generation more attractive towards consumerism. And this consumerism is taking up a huge percentage of import and, thus, draining away our foreign exchange. This is one area where at least you can save some money. So, I am only making a point to look at traditional items, a part of traditional items and machinery. We could not find any area even today. We could not go beyond certain fixed areas and fixed items, like agricultural products. Then, 74 per cent of manufactured goods include textile items. After the WTO agreement came into being, we have been facing a lot of problems. We are facing problem in the export of our garments. Of course, it may concern some other Ministry, but you, as a Finance Minister, are at the receiving end. So, all these areas where our export is also not up to the mark have to be developed. Then only you can have some money and reduce the debt burden.

Then, Sir, do not think that our economy can survive only on the BOP.

Do not think that BOP is the only concern for the nation. Of course, it is an important component of our currency and economy. But, everything should depend on the BOP, I think, that is a wrong approach. Take it as a component, but do not think it is the only component.

Then, there are some concessions in duties. I agree with it. You have reduced the custom duty. You said that you do not want to hurt the Indian industry. Mr. Minister, you must have received a lot of memoranda and you would have acted on them. I appreciate whatever you have done. But you have to be very careful because you may reduce customs duty in respect of some commodity which is produced in this country. So, the extra duty would go up. Then, where is the competition? I can show you item by item where the import is coming, dumping is coming and the excise duty is being reduced. At the same time, these items are produced in the country and the excise duty is going up. I know you have received many memoranda. I do not want to go into them one by one. I am not opposing the Indian industry. But, every Finance Minister used to take up two-three public sector undertakings, especially concerned with titanium dioxide products and caprolactam products, in Kerala. But, you did not touch them. The dumping is taking place. The excise duty had gone up and import duty had come down, and the then Minister was good enough to increase the import duty. This time you have kept it intact. But, that approach must be there. When the Indian industry is producing certain items here, look at the excise duty of those items. Please do not give any concession cutting the excise duty on imports. Level field must be there. Field playing must be there, other-

wise I will be the loser. On a principle I am saying this. Whenever you think of reducing the customs duty, see how it affectss the domestic production. That is the point I want to make.

Then, the other point is regarding rubber, about which we are all concerned. There are about nine lakh farmers in Kerala. They have done only one crime which the cotton farmers of Maharashtra did. We produced more. Luckily, nobody committed suicide. Only one gentleman committed suicide last week, because the entire rubber and property was destroyed in the landslide. We thought that Kerala is a State where no farmer will commit suicide. But, unfortunately, one gentleman farmer who had two acres of land committed suicide two days ago. When a farmer commits suicide, what does it mean? It means an escape from poverty. He does not want to die gradually due to poverty. He wants to escape and die immediately. That situation has come. As I said in the beginning of my speech, it is a tragedy that farmers are committing suicide. The Government should look into the policy. I demand that the Government should look into the policy, that is what I am saying.

So, rubber is an item which sometimes faces the crisis of import. Import of polyester and some other things also create a crisis. I want you to look into this kind of agricultural products which give strength to this country—and see that these are not harmed by the indiscriminate import of such items. This is one point which I wanted to make.

Lastly, Sir,—I will not take much of your time—subsidy. I am very fond of subsidy because it is a fashion today to attack subsidy. My friend, Mr. Chaturvedi, will not attack, I know. He is a friend of the poor. I hope so. I do not deny it. (*interruption*) yes. yes. You take the food subsidy and the fertilizer subsidy.

As you said earlier, apart from the debt burden, the defence burden and subsidy, the total subsidy is only ten per cent. After ten per cent, you take the food subsidy, it comes to only 3.5 per cent. Thirty six per cent of people live below the poverty line. What is the State's social obligation? It is only 3.5 per cent of our total budgetary provision, out of total revenue. It is not a big amount. It is the duty of the State. We all studied in college about the responsibility of State, theoretically. And you also know very well. So, it is the duty of State to feed the poor, not of the Government. It is not a new system. In America, in all the developed nations there are certain methods of subsidy or some other protection for the poor. That is how Reaganomics has come. Reagan is the only President of the United States who said, "No, I do not give this much of money to the black and the poor." He said it. But the Reaganomics also cannot sustain for long. So, this subsidy of 3.5 per cent for the food items given to 36.6 per cent of the poor who live below the poverty line is not a big amount. Some people say—I know some advice comes to you through newspapers, through media, through articles—cut the subsidy.

The total fertilizer subsidy comes to eight per cent. I believe, Sir, fertilizer subsidy is a must. Subsidy on the import of fertilizer is a must because these farmers made this country strong, this economy strong.

There are scandals even today in wheat import. I do not want to go into the scandalous wheat import. I know the wheat import from Australia was scandalous and unfortunately you are sitting here. (*interruption*) I have only said, scandalous.

I am not blaming anybody. Even though there is a commitment of the CBI, the Government is sitting tight over it. I do not want to get into any controversy on this basis.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (karnataka): Because you were a part of that Government. You were supporting that Government.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Now you have taken over the burden. What can I do? I wish Mr. Venkaiah Naidu to come forward and say that his party, his Government, would definitely look into this. (*Interruptions*) I am only talking about the principle. I am sure Mr. Venkaiah Naidu would not support the corrupt practice of anybody. Therefore, I wish he asks the Prime Minister to enquire into it.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I totally agree with you. But the only thing is that now there is no corruption involved; after the BJP took over. It took place earlier. You were supporting that Government. But you kept quiet. You were a party to that. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: If you would have seen, throughout my speech, I never accused your or the Finance Minister. I never made any charge against the Finance Minister. I only said that you had taken over, you had inherited, certain things. I am only making a suggestion.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: When he discovers some corruption, at least, he has the courage to speak on the floor of the House.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: What I am saying is this. Mr. Venkaiah Naidu is absolutely right. This had taken place during the previous Government. I fully agree with him. That is why I am saying. Why do you hesitate? You can institute a CBI enquiry into this. Why are you hesitating? It does not concern your Government. Then why don't you do it? I am asking the Finance Minister. There has been an allegation made in the House, supported by documents. This definitely calls for a CBI enquiry.

This is only suggestion I am giving. The main point is different. The main point is: you have gone in for import of wheat. There has been a decline in the production by four million tonnes. The production has come down from 199 million tonnes to 194 million tonnes. If there is an increase in production, you can also export. You can earn foreign exchange. But how can you increase the production? For that, you have to give many incentives.

The incentives should be in the form of subsidy on fertiliser, free electricity, water and other things. But you do not give free electricity to anybody now. Of course, subsidy on fertiliser is being given. My point is that this subsidy must continue. Don't do away with it. Don't go by the wrong advice of some economists. Keep the interests of the poor people and the interests of the farmers in mind. I am saying this because many articles are appearing against subsidy. Then the Government came with a White Paper on subsidy. I do not know why the Governfment came with a White Paper on subsidy. (*Interruptions*)

Madam, it is a social security measure. The subsidy in the year 1980-81 was of the order of 16 per cent. It has come down to 10 per cent now. When I calculated, I found that of this 10 per cent, the subsidy on food items is 3.5 per cent and the subsidy on fertiliser is 8 per cent. Subsidy has to be there. It should be continued, in the interest of the poor people and in the interest of the farmers. It is a social security measure which has been adopted by every Government. Several countries give subsidy. For example, the Welfare States in Europe; the Scandinavian countries. They are all welfare States. They are all socialist States. Even a capitalist country like the United States of America gives subsidy to its farmers.

I would now like to say something on the defence expenditure. It is of the order of 20 per cent. Of course, we have to take into account the security concern. But what do we see after Pokhran-II? There are remarks made by the Defence Minister and some other friends that we should go in for a nuclear weaponisation programme. In that case, would the Finance Minister be able to maintain the fiscal deficit target? If you go in for a

nuclear weaponisation programme, the Defence allocation has to be increased further. Would the Finance Minister be able to meet the financial requirement? I am afraid, the deficit would widen further. Not only the revenue deficit;even the fiscal deficit would be more. It would land you in a very difficult financial situation.

Therefore, I would request the Government. Please give up the idea of going in for nuclear weaponisation. It would not be good for the economy. When you make the nuclear bomb, where would you keep it? You can only keep it in some museum. You cannot use it. Therefore, don't waste money on that.

My last point is in regard to Air India. It is in a very, very bad shape. Last year, they borrowed about Rs. 2800 crores. They borrowed this money for the daily expenditure and for acquiring new aircraft. Due to paucity of time, I am not elaborating. Of course, we should strengthen the public sector undertakings like Indian Airlines and Air India. They are national carriers. At the same time, the mismanagement in Air India is to such an extent that it is going down every day. Look at the fabulous salary being paid. Madam, there is an allowance being paid in Kerala to the transport drivers. The drivers are being paid driving allowance in Kerala. In the case of Air India pilots, they are paid non-flying allowance. If he sits at home, he is paid Rs. 2 lakhs. If they are paid non-flying allowance, why don't Members of Parliament also get....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Non-functioning allowance.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Their total pay packet is Rs. 5-6 lakhs. I do not know. You have to find it out. So, there is enhancement of salary beyond imagination. Of course, you have to go according to the international standard. I am not disputing that. But, non-flying allowance and all other kinds of allowances have been given. Air India has gone into a very bad shape. You have to look into it and set it right.

With these words, I believe that the hon. Minister will look into the problem which I raised and bring whatever amendment to the law, either the FERA or the Income-Tax Act or whatever it may be, without delay. He should see that the Indian industry plays a major role in the international market. You should take a positive attitude to encourage them, not what you have done in the case of Maruti. I do not have the time to deal with Maruti. I will do it on another occasion. But don't follow what you have done in the case of Maruti. You have to follow another method, a *swadeshi* method. Shrimati Indiraji once upon a time said, "Be Indian. Buy Indian." You are saying it in Hindi, *"Swadeshi"*. It is the same. Unfortunately, *"swadeshi"* has become *"videshi"* here. So, don't follow that kind of a method. But be Indian and buy Indian.

With this, Madam, I conclude.

Thank you.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI (Rajasthan): Madam Chairperson, as was pointed out, the Appropriation Bill is a constitutional obligation. I think the rationale of the various appropriations have been well explained by the hon. Finance Minister. I do agree with my friend, Mr. Vayalar Ravi, on many of the points made by him, despite many arrows and barbs here and there, which one can well understand.

But, one thing which his observations made very clear is about the conflicting demands on the Finance Minister. He has to meet these conflicting demands in the difficult situation at the moment. It was rightly said by Mr. Vayalar Ravi that it is he who has to bear the burden and the responsibility. That situation is the outcome, the result of the policy pursued during the last so many years, particularly in the last three years. That is why one

has to keep in view, Madam Deputy Chairperson, that no magical remedy is there. The Finance Minister must be commended for the fact that he has really made a very happy beginning through the Budget.

The Budget Speech of the Finance Minister itself notes by and large the points made by Mr. Vayalar Ravi, maybe with some difference of emphasis here and there.

Very briefly, I will draw attention to one or two things. The first thing which Mr. Vayalar Ravi mentioned is one with which the entire House agrees and the country agrees. It is that the Indian economy largely depends upon agricultural development. I will not go into the kind of statistics which we use very often.

I think this is the first time since 1980s that the investment in agriculture is really something which we must really appreciate. Massive investments have been made in the infrastructure. There is almost 35 per cent increase.

Then, Mr. Vayalar Ravi referred to the poor and down-trodden people, social security, welfare of the people and so on. I think the allocations for the welfare schemes have gone up almost by 91 per cent. The investment in agriculture, as I said, has gone up by almost 50 to 60 per cent. The investment in environment has gone up by 60 per cent. The investment in non-conventional energy also has gone up by almost 60 per cent. This will, I think, spurt the domestic demand and pull industries like steel, cement and chemicals out of the rug. The point that Mr. Vayalar Ravi made is that there have been some difficulties in the industrial sector. I think, the steps that the Finance Minister has taken should now initiate a change.

Here, I will say that it is the Indian industry which now must gear itself up, and it should not complain all the time. A large number of concessions were announced earlier in the Budget. Some more concessions have been made later on by the Finance Minister. It is high time that the industry also put its house in order.

They want to be the global actors on the scene. It is for them also to take some positive action in this regard and not just go on only complaining most of the time. They have also to see that they themselves have a role to play, when it is a question of international competitiveness.

It is true that exports have declined. Reasons are well-known. It is not a sudden phenomenon. This has been happening for the last two or three years. I do not know whether it was because of the Far Eastern crisis. We had a kind of relationship with Russia. Its economy is also under strain. That is why the Government has to pay a particular attention to stimulate export performance. Many of the steps to that end that the Finance Minister has taken are the steps in the right direction.

A reference was made to Pokhran effect. In an earlier discussion we had given our assessment of statistics. Mr. Vayalar Ravi should feel satisfied with the announcement of the Finance Minister that no important scheme or no project of any kind will be allowed to suffer. On the question of sanctions, one need not talk more at this particular stage. I would like to say that even some of the initial adverse reactions that we have had in same quarters started changing after a few days. Probably the expectations of some of these people was that there would be some catchy schemes like buy-back shares or reduction of the capital gains tax and so on. But the Finance Minister while taking a total view of the economy had taken into account all these things and took his decisions. He took into account the backlog of the past, difficulties and constraints of the present and also where we want to proceed in future surmounting all these difficulties and constraints. Based on all that the hon. Finance Minister has prepared the Budget. He has shown remarkable sen-

sitivities at different stages. I do not want to go into Mr. Vayalar Ravi's suggestions about subsidies and so on, because he himself said that there would be criticisms in response to what the people felt or when the Finance Minister felt that taking into account the entirety of the situation, certain amendments are necessary. This has again needlessly created a controversy. All kinds of words like the 'roll back' and so on have been needlessly used. Roll back, as all of us know, probably is a new phrase. It has come in vogue only in the recent past. I do not know whether it has come in use as part of the American English or the British English.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Perhaps, when there are no bank rolls, you have to roll back.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: What I mean to say is that he has done this with responsiveness and sensitivity to give a stimulus to the economy. This indicates the fact that the reforms process itself will go on on an even keel and speedily. Every time during budget discussion words like system, implementation and performance have been used. I will confine myself or limit my time much more to that particular aspect of implementation and performance for which appropriation is the only means or instrument as to how the ends are to be served. I must say one thing that the Finance Minister certainly needs commendation for the Samadhan Scheme. There may be some inadequacies in it. But the details will have to be worked out. I must say that the public litigation is a great bane in this country and in his Department. Once in a particular position, I tried to have an assessment about the impact of litigation and wastage. I gave all the information pertaining to this matter to the then Finance Minister, Prof. Madhu Dandavate. I think in this the strange thing is the public who are the sufferers. The Government attends to the litigation and goes on with it from one stage to another. Earlier even as the Chief Secretary of Delhi, I was told by no less a person than the former Chief Justice of Delhi as to what kind of accusations were there as regards land acquisition and as to what kind of racketeers were there against a decision and against every decision there should be an appeal. That is why I think that this approach of the Finance Minister, particularly, about the Samadhan Scheme needs to be appreciated. I think that this is a matter which he must take into account or he must alert even other Ministries and other Departments with regard to disputed payments leading to the so-called public litigation. So far as courts are concerned, it is public litigation or Government's litigation which is the biggest litigation on the civil side. I think the loser is only the public and nobody else, not Government servants, not the Government's machinery. I think this is one thing that we have to keep in view.

Mr. Vayalar Ravi has mentioned how revenue estimates are predicated on an economic growth of 7.5 per cent that probably may not materialise. But what I only need to say is the determination of the Government, the boldness of the Finance Minister who is prepared to apply a corrective as and when necessary, should ensure that we will be able to meet that kind of a situation.

Mr. Vayalar Ravi has also said about the price rise and so on. The Finance Minister in his Budget speech has also mentioned about the fiscal deficit and one has to be careful about it. We have to remember that the former Finance Minister, Mr. Chidambaram had forecast a fiscal deficit of 4.5 per cent in 1997-98. But it turned out to be 6.15 per cent. Now, the Finance Minister proposed in his Budget speech a fiscal deficit of 5.6 per cent. He himself said at different times that there is a need for caution in this regard. But the price rise at the moment cannot be attributed to the Budget as such. When the fiscal deficit envisaged earlier was exceeded, it has

created this kind of an inflationary situation.

Madam Chairperson, I really want to mention a few points about the purpose for which appropriations are made, the performance and implementation. This I think are very important. I consider the Ministry of Finance as an overarching Ministry. The Finance Ministry is a nodal Ministry. As Mr. Vayalar Ravi rightly said, the Finance Ministry sometimes along with the Law Ministry do many things through statutes, laws, amendment of laws or even enactment of new laws. The Finance Minister wants to do these things as proposed. All of us want these things to be done. And that is why the Finance Ministry must play an effective coordinating role. There is a Ministry called the Ministry of Plan Implementation. At the moment, I am not aware of its functioning. But from my experience of the last few years and even earlier, I know that there were gaping inadequacies so far as plan implementation was concerned or the working of the plan implementation machinery was concerned. I think this is what makes it very imperative that the Finance Ministry plays its rightful role without being obstructive, provides guidance, provides support and plays also, sometimes, the role of monitoring and so on. Here, it is sustained effort which will be necessary. I would give a few instances also. Before that, I would like to mention about the corruption and the scams etc. that have arisen, including the wheat import deal. We have to take into account the facts. Why do we want the laws to be simplified? One good announcement the Finance Minister has made is about the simplification of our income-tax returns, maybe even to one page. Basically, the idea is, it should be just one or two pages so that each of us may be in a position to file his or her income-tax returns without depending on others. At the same time, I must say that tax evasion must also be dealt with strongly. While simplifying the laws, this must also be taken into account.

I would also like to say that while talking about the promotion of small-scale industry which provides so much of employment to the people, I need not go into its merits and the role which the small-scale industry has in this economy. Madam, the question of Inspector Raj has arisen many a time. I will just take a few minutes more, Madam. I think here also, we have to see that the Finance Minister is very clear as to from which end he starts about this ending of the Inspector Raj—simplifying laws and seeing that their numbers are reduced and so on and it would not be that by different names and different forms they come in, but in true spirit. This is what is much more important and I think this will have to be taken into account. Madam Chairperson, I would like to say that so far as effective implementation is concerned, I would just draw attention to one of the things. Even in the latest Standing Committee report, these things have been repeated. First, if the Finance Ministry has to play that role, it has to first put its own house in order, put its own acts together. For example, I would mention the delay in the modernisation of the Budget press. Underutilisation of funds has been going on from 1993-94. Only stereo-typed replies are being received. I myself was there on the Standing Committee at one point of time. I was also on the PAC. There were want of space, poor response to tender enquiry, etc., etc. as mentioned. We know about their importance. Questions are put to the Finance Minister—they were put to the earlier Finance Ministers also—about clean notes, secrecy of the notes, confidentiality of printing notes, etc.

Again, in the case of the Currency Notes Press, the same type of problem of non-utilisation is there. One of the reasons as given for this has been non-receipt of treasure wagons from the Bharat Earth Movers. But why can't the Finance Ministry take up the matter with the concerned public sector undertaking or with the Ministry under whose charge

it comes? That shows a need for vertical and horizontal coordination. It is here the Finance Ministry will have to play a proper role. Similarly, in the Standing Committee on Finance, the old problem of modernisation of the Government of India mints was mentioned. The scheme which was at one time to cost about Rs. 118 crores and which should have been completed in 1996, is supposed to be completed in 1999 and will cost about Rs. 350 crores or so. Now, how can the Ministry control or regulate the cost and time overruns in other projects and in other Ministries? We know that this point has been raised very often and in the Plan implementation report also, we get this type of information. The Ministry should take note of its own functioning and of the things which are of some crucial importance. Another thing which is very important for the rural economy is the question of the recapitalisation of the rural select regional banks. This scheme has been there and many times, the problem of the regional rural banks had been raised and discussed in this particular House. Now, the money provided for this purpose goes to the salaries and it does not ensure any kind of low cost credit which is supposed to be the purpose. These are the policy issues, these are the matters, these are the issues of the system that we have to take into account. Again, there is a question of the non-performing assets. The Standing Committee on Finance have made certain comments in this respect this time also. Madam, I don't want to take the time of the House in giving instances. However, in some of the banks and even elsewhere, a lot of things are said for the increasing non-performing assets and the public interest is suffering. I think we should seriously take note of this thing. If we do so, then the kind of scams about which we talk about, would not occur. When we are thinking of austerity, avoidance of wasteful expenditure and so on and so forth, there was a proposal in the Budget of 1996-97 and even earlier also, about the Constitution of the Expenditure and Management Reforms Commission. Unfortunately, though it was announced in the 1996-97 Budget, it was never set up. I do not know the reasons for not setting it up. But this is necessary to have a holistic view and an overview of the entire governmental machinery, the kind of expenditure, the problem of duplication and whether it is possible to pursue it in a dispassionate and objective manner without any kind of partisan or political bias. I would be quite happy if the Finance Minister has any other alternative way of doing it without the commission. Otherwise, this would be looked into in a piecemeal manner. Leave aside this ritualistic ten per cent cut. This would be left to the same concerned person. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI R.K. KUMAR (Tamil Nadu): Would you yield for a minute? On the Constitution of the Expenditure Reforms Commission, even though the then Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram, had said that he would do it, the reason for not doing it is now stated as he wanted the Commission to be headed by an Opposition leader. But no Opposition leader was willing to head such a Commission. Now, he himself being in the Opposition, probably, may be willing to head such a Commission and I will request the hon. Finance Minister to consider this proposal. Thank you.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: I know that. Thank you for reminding me of the same. He even had directly mentioned the name of a very distinguished statesman, who unfortunately, is no more with us now. He had headed a Committee of the Chief Ministers and so on. Yes, this matter of economy is a thankless job. I think that both the Government and the Opposition should cooperate in this task because this is a task which is of utmost importance. It is important not only at present but also in the years to come.

Madam Deputy Chairman, I have to also draw the attention of the Minister to

the SEBI thing. I don't want to go into the question of SEBI..... (*Interruptions*).....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your party's time is only 33 minutes, and there are two Members more to speak on this.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Madam, in another three minutes I will conclude. Madam, we know, you are always very considerate.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I wish, my generosity could extend the BJP's time also!

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Madam, I won't strain your patience more than necessary.

As regards the role of SEBI, I think, the time has come that this should be reviewed. SEBI has appointed umpteen Committees, the latest being the Dhanuka Committee, which talks about even improving its powers. So many Committees have been constituted and they have suggested many things. I have nothing against SEBI. I know the Chairman personally. It is a regulatory authority. But a number of inadequacies have come up. We knew them when the problems in non-banking companies arose, and when many other matters and many other issues arose. It is not a question of blaming anybody. But in the light of the experience that we have had, and in the light of the perspective of the changed circumstances and the challenges that we have to meet, the primary issues have to be stimulated, the stock exchange has to be stimulated. I think, there is a need to review the whole thing and it should be done by an expert outside the panel, and not by SEBI itself. Here I would also like to mention that it is a very unhappy kind of situation, which has very recently arisen, and, I think, which should not have normally arisen, I mean the dispute about the SEBI decision being upset by the appellate authority, and people feeling that the appellate authority is just a part and parcel of the Finance Ministry. It is not a fact. Only two Secretaries belong to the Ministry. There is only a misunderstanding. I think, it is time when we don't send wrong signals. The people have also begun to interpret that the sufferer is again the UTI! that means, this kind of situation needs to be reviewed. I request the Government that to inculcate confidence in the people it should take all these thing into account.

Madam, another suggestion that I would like to make is that after the securities scam,—the hon. Finance Minister himself and Mr. Das Gupta were members of the Committee—it was announced by Dr. Manmohan Singh, the then Finance Minister, that for the prevention of frauds etc., a division would be set up, and I think that has been set up. What has been the experience thereafter? This was on the lines of frauds division in the United Kingdom.

What has been the experience? There have been a number of lapses subsequently. I think that it is a very serious matter.

Another thing to which I would like to draw the attention of the House is—and where the overarching role of the Finance Minister is called for—the excess over voted grants and charged appropriations; I think it is here that the Finance Minister should really play a monitoring role. Unless the Finance Ministry itself pays attention to the Reports of the CAG, the Reports of the Public Accounts Committee, the Estimates Committee and the Standing Finance Committee, I am afraid, the other Ministry will not be able to pay requisite attention to their suggestion and recommendations; maybe, not just at present, but during the course of the year, this should be one of the important roles which the Finance Ministry must assume. There are a number of reports both about systems of direct and indirect taxes by the PAC. A part of propsed action is done; a part of that is not done.

That is why a number of things that are necessary have not been done.

One important thing to which I would like to draw, through you, Madam, the attention of the Finance Minister is the follow-up of the audit reports. We talk of managerial improvements, transparency, accountabilities.....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have taken the full time of your party, i.e. 33 minutes.

SHRI TRILIKI NATH CHATURVEDI: I will just resume my seat.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now your party has only one minute. You consume that one minute also. Why do you leave it?

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: I would like to mention here about the credibility and accountability. We are using the words transparency, accountability and so on and so forth. One of the instruments, which the Parliament has, is the Office of the CAG. How do we strengthen it as an institution? It is not in a formal sense that the Finance Ministry is responsible for the follow-up of the audit reports which are not taken up by the Public Accounts Committee. As they are not taken up properly, I think it is a matter which needs their proper attention. The credibility of the Indian audit is very high. Even the United Nations have adopted them as auditors. There are a number of requirements of the CAG which are yet to be met. The CAG is not an isolated one. Even today I saw in the Press somebody important saying that they were stage-managed reports and so on and so forth. If you are talking of accountability, transparency, managerial improvements, integrity in public life, etc., in this kind of a situation, they become all shibboleths and they have no particular importance.

Lastly, I would like to say this. Since the new Finance Commission has been appointed this question of separation of audit and accounts, departmentalisation, should be given serious attention. It was done at the Centre, of course, in an unhappy circumstance. A number of things happened. I don't want to go into them to raise controversy. Many States have also assumed this responsibility. They say that this will be a burden on them. I think some of them refused to do it. So, this is the time that this matter should be taken up so that the responsibility for audit remains with the constitutional authourity of CAG and the maintenance of accounts, their audit and the submission of the accounts in time vest with the State Governments. A very few State Governments have taken up this duty. Madam, with these words I support the Appropriation Bill. We have only to discuss the Appropriation Bill and it has to be returned to the Lok Sabha. I must say that the Finance Minister has started very well and he needs the support of the House in his efforts.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Dipankar Mukherjee. It would be better that I inform you that there are 13 minutes and you are the only speaker.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Madam, I have no other colleague to back me up. I am afriad I am going to burden the already-burdened Finance Minister with another old script. During his reply to the Budget debate, the Finance Minister stated in response to the points raised by my esteemed colleague, Dr. Mitra, "it is more or less an old script which is going on for four years." I admit and I plead guilty becuase my submission is also an old script. Somehow or the other shifting stands or rolling back, whatever you call it, requires a differenct type of efficiency and different type of things. Coming to the rolling back and the shifting of stands or inconsistency, the way in which the discussion is going on, it is a question of credibility. You had stated in your Budget Speech that you had increased the price of urea. So far as the increase in the price is concerned, all of us

including your party stated that there should not be any increse in the price of urea and you rolled it back considering the opinion of all. I say, for a change, that I agree with the reason that you have stated in your Budget Speech, that is, the NPK ratio, the nutrient imbalance. If it was for resource mobilisation that you had asked for the price increase, when you rolled back, today why is no one talking of the NPK balance? You said that you were increasing the price of urea so that the nutrient balance, which was totally disturbed, was improved. You rolled back. We all felt that urea price hike was absolutely not justified. What steps have you taken to bring back the nutrient balance? I have gone through the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Fertilizers. There is absolutely nothing. Nobody has given any thinking. There lies the question of credibility of the whole thing that we are talking about. Madam, he, not as Finance Minister, but as Chief Secretary of the Government of Bihar, might be aware that Sindri, the mother of fertilizer industry in this country had a Fertilizer Promotion and Agriculture Division in 1960s. This Division used to cover six States. One of its major objectives was fertilizer education and balanced use of fertilizer. That has more or less remained unused. Forget about the past. Even today your Ministry says that they are not going to take any action so far as restrengthening of that particular organisation is concerned. It used to cover six States. So my first point is about rolling back or consistency or inconsistency, i.e., nutrient balance which he has specified in his Budget Speech.

Secondly, whether the Budget has an inflationary impact or not, well, no debate is necessary. We had a debate only on last Friday. Shri Chaturvedi also participated in the debate. Nobody denies that there has been a tremendous hike in prices. If there is need for pre-Budget and post-Budget comparisons, those who have handled the figures or the statisticians can do that. How do you justify it? You have mentioned in your Budget speech, "This is our policy. We are in power. We will implement our policies. We will not follow your policies." Please don't follow our policies. But if your policies result in such a hike in prices, it will be called inflation. It will be criticised. There is rise in prices....

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Your policies were followed by the UF Government.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: All right, if you are following that policy and if it is your policy to follow that policy, I will come back to that policy. But nobody can call us inconsistent. You cannot have the cake and eat it too. You cannot say that you are consistent. You cannot say that you are supporting this Government or that Government. When there was the United Front Government, there was Calling Attention twice on disinvestment of PSUs. I will come back to that. You can compare whether we have changed our stand. If you want to appreciate that, appreciate that.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mukherjee, you better continue your speech on the Appropriation Bill.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: My second point is in regard to the directions in the Budget so far as resource mobilisation is concerned. Again I don't find any direction here. What is the impact of this rolling back? This is my second query to the Minister. All right, you have rolled back. One may or may not appreciate your rolling back or whatever you have done.

The country must be told, "What has been the impact of your rolling back?" Wherefrom are you going to earn revenue? It should be specified. Excepting petrol which has already increased inflation, you have rolled back certain other things. What is the impact of your rolling back on revenue and resource mobilisation? Kindly specify that.

So far as the old script is concerned, yes, we are for direct tax. What you have

done is the same. You are increasing the indirect tax which increases inflation. When we say there is money in this country, there has to be zero tax companies. There are Rs. 40,000 crores of NPA in banks. Shri Chaturvedi has talked about Rs. 40,000 crores of NPA. We are talking about it for the last four years. I can put questions after questions. There are RBI directives. Those who are defaulters have been given money to open new industries. What steps are you going to take to mobilise money from these sources? What are the new taxes? Whatever is being done is only for richer class. There is only direct taxation which will put more burden on the common people. This is the old script which we are talking about. If you have some new ideas, kindly tell us. How are you broadening the tax base of 1.2 per cent people who are paying the tax? What are your ideas? Here also you have rolled back. So far as PAN is concerned, you have already rolled it back.

There also you have gone back. So these pressures are there. Then we would like to know from the Finance Minister regarding sanctions. Of course, it has become another touchy issue. Straightaway you can find that the NTPC has been affected by certain sanctions. If they are not direct sanctions, then they are indirect sanctions. Now what is the impact of them? Because of sanctions, the NTPC is going to mobilise their resource by increasing power tariff to the States. One of the victims is the zone to which both the hon. Finance Minister and myself belong and that is the Eastern Zone. Now, the NTPC is going to charge 'availability tariff' from the Eastern Zone. It is not a power-deficit zone. If it is a power-deficit zone, everybody will say that the condition is very bad and that there is no power. But this is a zone which has surplus power. Even if it is a power-surplus zone, it is a crime in this country? What has been done? The NTPC is going to charge 'availability tariff'. If there is power to the extent of 3000 MW and if you use 1,000 MW, they will charge you on the basis of 3000 MW. I would request the Finance Minister to check this. Why should a zone having surplus power be penalised in such a way? What type of a resource mobilisation in this? This has an impact — I may be corrected if I am wrong — on the NTPC's resource mobilisation which is needed for their projects because of the sanctions. What type of such other things which we are not aware of are there? Kindly come out with areas where we should be prepared? Regarding fiscal deficit, everybody is talking about it. I don't want to touch that subject. But I have a very interesting question before me. There was an Unstarred Question today, Sir,...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is 'Madam'

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Actually it has become a habit to say, 'Sir' especially as most of the time in the mornings we have to say 'Sir'.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Madam, there was an article in the *Indian Express* where a lady officer in the Army wanted to be called 'Sir'.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I don't mind being called 'Sir' at other times. But here what happens is that it will be misunderstood that the observations are going directly to the Minister. I am only protecting the Chair. If there was a lady there, I wouldn't mind it.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Madam, there was an Unstarred Question regarding Disinvestment Commission. The question was whether the Disinvestment Commission, in its very first report, pointed out that disinvestment should not be used as a short-term budgetary measure intended mainly to raise the resource to cover fiscal deficit. The answer is 'Yes'. If it is 'Yes', I would like to have an assurance from the Finance Minister whether this first recommendation so far as the disinvestment

objective is concerned is being followed. I would also like to point out that as a part of the first recommendation, there has to be a disinvestment fund. Now neither the disinvestment fund nor the assurance not to cover your fiscal deficit is being talked about. But what is being talked about is that certain profit-making public sector undertakings will be disinvested. For what purpose is it so? If it is not for fiscal deficit, for what purpose is it being done? Let the House be made clear about it? Again regarding disinvestment, when it is talked about, except for selling the President's silver, there has not been a single instance so far where the performance of the public sector unit where disinvestment has been done has been mentioned. Disinvestment has been taking place since 1991 onwards. Is there any record to show whether the performance in these units has improved in any way? There has been no such thing. We only talk of wider equity participation by way of disinvestment. My point is, you have a number of financial institutions under you. Equities more than 30 to 40 per cent are invested in big corporate houses.

What has been their performance? Should I name those companies? What precaution are you going to take? You told us, you advised us, let us go and read the Companies Act and see that 26 per cent equity holder also has a lot of control. What has been the control in the case of Dunlop? They have got the financial institutions which have got 30 per cent equity. Your LIC has got 20 per cent equity; your GIC has got 5 per cent; UTI has got 3 per cent. So, it is something like 29 per cent. What control did they have? The financial irregularities are there, moneys are siphoned off. What control did they have in ITC? What control did they have in all sick undertakings, corporate undertakings? Are you really serious? Or is it also something like that, "today I am talking something, tomorrow I will talk something different?"

I am coming back to the issue of sick CPSUs. Before the Budget, I had written a letter to the Prime Minister — not one, but two. Keeping in view that there were statutory dues to the tune of Rs. 1,900 crores or odd, and out of these, Rs. 600 crores were liquidated during the United Front regime, would you kindly keep a provision for it? We are all the time assured that statutory dues payable to the workers of public sector — because you are giving a very bad example — will be given. The private promoter tomorrow can say that he will not pay the salaries because he doesn't have the money. I am afraid, in spite of the fact that the Labour Minister has told in a written reply that certain provisions have been made for paying to these sick units, that is not being done. Day after day, I am getting these — I can give you the list — whether it is a circular or a notice. A notice is coming saying the company has not been closed, the company has not been wound up but because of financial problems, "we cannot pay you the salaries and wages from this month onwards." I want to know whether these provisions, as assured time and again in this House, have been kept that till a unit is closed, the statutory dues will be payable to them. The Leader of the House is not here, but I would like to give the figures relating to one of his companies, namely, Jessop. Till now, 54 crores of rupees are not being paid to it. I know it is a legacy. I want to know whether any provision has been made in this Budget.

Regarding the revival of sick CPSUs, when I talk about the Central public sector units, whatever crisis is there in the South-East Asia, you talk of inherent strength of India. One of the inherent strengths of India which everyone of us agree here is the public sector. When you were talking about the revival of sick public sector units, I am afraid, it is not being treated very seriously. The one which is revivable, will be revived. Okay, we agree with that. The one

which cannot be revived, will not be revived. I agree with that also. But, what is happening? No theory, actual practice. Shri Barnalaji is here. I would like to say something for his consideration. Has the Durgapur Fertilisers been wound up? No. The Finance Minister is here. Let us be assured right now; let us know what the intention of this Government is. From 1992 onwards, the Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation is under BIFR. There has not been any decision so far that it will not be run. There has not been any decision or a sanctioned scheme also. Then, this interim period, "till you take a decision in the BIFR", as per SICA. Madam, I may not have gone through the Companies Act, but I have gone through the Sick Industries Companies Act--I can assure the Finance Minister. This period "till you take a decision whether to run or close" is known as "holding on operations". The promoter, in this case, the Government of India, is supposed to see that during this period, "till they take a decision either to run or to close"--holding on operations--continuity of production goes on; otherwise, it will become sicker and sicker. In the Durgapur Fertiliser, there was a failure in June, 1997. It was shut down. Today replacement of that particular equipment requires Rs. 40 crores. In this connection, I have put many questions to the Fertiliser Minister. I have also met Fertiliser Minister and he said that Rs. 40 crores are not available. So, you cannot get one lakh tonnes of urea. You are very much worries about *swadeshi* urea, agriculture, but you cannot give Rs. 40 crores to start that plant. What are you going to do? Are you going to run it? Are you going to wait? Time is the essence of revival. If you want that it should die its natural death, well that is the best way. Here, I am sorry, Madam, the hon. Finance Minister himself is involved. It is a sanctioned scheme. I have personally given a copy of a letter to him. He has acknowledged it. The Company will go off within three or four months. This is a santioned scheme by BIFR. The scheme was sanctioned on 16.10.97 Reroll Burn Ltd, under the Ministry of Industry. All are parties, the Government, banks, unions and all that. Administrative approval for implementation of the scheme was issued on 29.5.1998. The United Bank of India-this is another reply to my questions from the Ministry of Industry; this is not a CPI(M) manifesto. It is Reroll Burn Ltd. under the Ministry of Industry. It is a subsidiary of Burn Standard Ltd. The United Bank of India is yet to implement the scheme and that is enough. That is enough because that way a viable plan also can be made unviable. Sixty companies were referred to BIFR. Out of that, if my memory serves me well, only in nine cases they have taken a decision. I would like to bring to the notice of the Finance Minister that out of sixty, only in nine CPSUs there has been a *prima facie* decision of the BIFR to wind up though there is no order from the High Court. Liquidation has not started. On paper, there is nothing like 'under closure'. Kindly check up from your Ministry and consult all Ministries. In how many of these companies there is holding on of operations? Your assurance or your talking in the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha that revival schemes will be implemented and unviable schemes will not be implemented will hold good only when the BIFR decides. Unless holding on operations goes, the health of the plants, viable plants also will become unviable by that time. Would you, Mr. Minister, kindly give an assurance in this House that so far as sick undertakings under BIFR are concerned, holding on operations will continue only till a final decision is taken by the BIFR? This is specific request, not of viable or non-viable.

Lastly, this is a question I had asked Mr. Manmohan Singh in 1994 on sick undertakings and he had agreed in principle but he could not convey it to the BIFR. I had asked Mr. Chidambaram

and now I am asking you. When you decide, do not say BIFR, because the Secretary decides about it actually. Even in a capitalist country, Madam, if you want to close down a unit, they calculate what known as 'replacement cost.' This is a final point he has to reply. If you want to decide closing down a factory.

Fertilizer, Barauni, Durgapur, Ramagundam, Talcher or anything--in a capitalist country they see the capital, they would see what is the replacement cost and the opportunity cost for creating equivalent employment. BIFR is not doing that calculation. Our Constitution says that it is a welfare State. Are you doing it? Are our bureaucrats doing it? They are not doing it. That way all your balance-sheet is not a balance-sheet of calculations. You decide to close down say, Barauni. For creating another infrastructure of Barauni is some other place, how much money you will require? Without calculating on that basis balance-sheets are there and there are losses. For the delay you have to blame the Government? Why Government? Look at the way U.B.I is doing or at whatever is being done for Durgapur! All these cash losses will be mounted up and you say it is not viable. Would the Government assure us that in case of a decision for closure of any unit, the replacement cost, including opportunity cost for creating equivalent employment will be calculated before taking a final decision on closure? I think on all these questions I will get some reply, even if they skip a few. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I must tell you, Mr. Das, there is a time constraint and please formulate your points quickly.

DR. M.N. DAS (Orissa): Madam, I have only a few words to speak, of a very general nature because item by item, all intricacies involving estimates and finance, must have been discussed in the Lower House. We are just performing a ritual. We discuss and send it back. So, I have nothing to speak more; no time too kill. I have one compliment for our hon. Finance Minister. He has already manifested an adjustable and elastic mentality or approach. Today he takes decision, tomorrow he changes that decision. That is quite democratic. I am sure the hon. Finance Minister must be following the footsteps of Sir Robert Walpole, the first unorganised Prime Minister of Great Britain. But, while you change your decisions frequently, you also prove one weakness that you have become a prisoner of indecision. The Finance Minister have to be very strong and bold and should adopt courageous policies because on the finances depend the vitality and life on the nation. But anyway, whenever a Budget comes, people have an automatic response; what kind of a Budget it is and what are its contents! We hear what the people say. They ask, is this Budget pro-poor, pro-people, pro-farmer and pro-labour class? Or is this pro-business community, pro-bureacracy, pro-highly paid officials, pro-vested interests and so on and so forth? Only future will give the verdict whether it is a pro-poor Budget or a pro-rich Budget. I would not be surprised if in some distant future the present Government will be described as 'a Government of the vested interests, by the vested interests and for the vested interests." May it not happen. But, that is the fear. I have one submission. The Finance Minister has been kind enough and good enough to remove or reduce levy on certain items like ghee, milk-powder, butter, marble, tiles, fabrics and so on and so forth. But how do these reductions or removals come to the rescue of 30 crores people who have never seen butter in life, never can see marble in life? ...*(Interruptions)*... Let them see potato. Even a tomato is a luxury for them. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Finance Minister, kindly excuse me for saying one point to which I would like to draw your attention. In the British days one criticism of the British Government was that "it was a Rolls Royce Administration in a bullockcart country." Today what is the nature of the Government? One may say

that "it is a jumbo jet administration in a land of rickshaws, bare-footed pedstrains and, of course, inevitable bullock-cart". In other words, the administration has become too top--heavy. There is much unnecessary expenditure. Has the Government ever thought of how to cut down this expenditure, uncalled for extravaganza? The money is going down the drain. Where from does the finance come? The dumb and mute millions do not know that they are burdened by taxation. They pay for salt, they pay for a little cloth, they pay for medicine, etc. Indirect tax is the finance coming from the commonest of the common people, the poorest of the poor. But, the Budget is giving concessions to the haves. When I speak of the administration, it is all right that in the context of price index and due to inflation, you increase the salaries of the highly paid officials . Once the Pandora's box has been opened by you, Mr. Finance Minister, get ready for all types of demands that will come in the immediate future. Last week we had the postal strike. They are also human beings. I think today we might be having a strike in all the hospitals of the Capital. Tommorrow there will be some other strike and it will go on. But if you want to meet the demands of these people by increasing their salaries, by all means you do that. But, cut down the unnecessary expenditure. It is very painful to see sometimes in the way the Government remains callous and indifferent towards unncessary, uncalled for extravaganza... *(Interruptions)*...The other day I was travelling from my Capital to this place. Well, whosoever he may be, I need not name. A particular VVIP had gone to the Capital to attend the marriage ceremony of personal friend. But, look at the commandos, look at the alertness of the police force, look at the way he comes and goes for a day's visit to attend the marriage of a personal friend. Should the State exchequer bear the entire expense on the VVIPs? Mr. Finance Minister, let us be bold. The nation demands courage from the Government. If there is an able Prime Minister and a stable Government, show the stability, show the ability by reducing all these personal expenditure incurred in the name of VVIPs. Unless you do that, common people would not tolerate any longer the way we are making expenditure. Madam, I have many more points, but I may not raise them because of paucity of time. I do not know whether the Budget has provided sufficient amount of money on family planning or for family planning. The century will close, this century began with 200 crores of population all over the world; The centuary will close with 600 crores of people on the surface of the earth and India's share would be 100 crores; 183 other countries will share the remaining 500 crores. So, are you spending enough money on family planning, on health care and on the bare fundamental things that the country needs? If you close your eyes to all these necessities, how can you stop poverty and how can you control poverty? Now, painfully I have to say one thing, when I look to the all-round expenditure, I see high prices. When you raise the salary of certain classes of highly-paid officers what do the lowly-paid officers say? They say that in India some people are paid more to work less; some people are paid less to work more. How are you going to rectify this? Unless you do it, you have to suffer.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think, you did not hear, one Member, while participating in the debate, said that some people are paid for not working-non-functioning allowance.

DR. M.N. DAS: That is exactly correct. I can give hundreds of such instances of what we see in our own experience and with our own eyes. Highly paid, higher paid and highest paid, and what is the amount of work, how many hours do you work and why do you not work? Because, there is no fear. It was totally different in earlier days. But one point, Mr. Finance Minister, is, in the land of Mahatama Gandhi should we have to learn austerity

from Pakistan's Prime Minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif? This question remains for you, Mr. Finance Minister, to answer. Thank you.

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. At the outset, I would like to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister on behalf of my party as well as on my own behalf for annoucing many concessions in the Lok Sabha, particularly with regard to the information technology.

माननीय मंत्री जी ने ग्रामीण विकास के लिए और कृषि के लिए विशेष रियायतों की घोषणा की है, विशेष अलाटमेंट भी किये हैं, मैं उनको धन्यवाद देता हूं। लेकिन एक बात में साफ साफ कहना चाहता हूं कि जब तक क्राप इंश्योरेंस विलेज को यूनिट बना कर हर फसल के लिए इम्पलीमेंटेशन नहीं करते हैं, उस वक्त तक किसानों के लिए जो भी अच्छे अच्छे काम करने के लिए आप सोच रहे हैं, उनमें आप सफल नहीं हो सकेंगे, विफल हो जाएंगे। हम देख रहे हैं कि कई जमाने से, कई हकूमतें यह बात बोलती आ रही हैं लेकिन किसी भी हकूमत ने इस को अमल में नहीं लाया। मुझे विश्वास है कि कम से कम यह हकूमत या मंत्री बहुत जल्दी ही इस क्राप इंश्योरेंस को विलेज यूनिट के बेसिस पर हर क्राप के लिए लागू करेंगे, पूरे देश में इसे अमल में ला कर किसानों की मदद करेंगे।

इसके साथ ही साथ बच्चों को शिक्षा के लिए, गृह निर्माण के लिए इनफ्रास्ट्रचर के लिए बहुत अच्छी मिकदार में अलाटमेंट किये गये हैं, यह ठीक है। लेकिन मैं आपके जरिये मंत्री जी का ध्यान इस तरफ ले जाना चाहता हूं कि आप सात लाख करोड़ के ऊपर खर्च करके इस देश को सुधारना चाहते हैं। इस देश में, इस समाज में जो सब से बड़ा कैंसर है, वह है करप्शन। जब तक आप करप्शन को दूर करने के लिए कुछ ठोस इकदामात नहीं लेंगे, यह सात लाख करोड़ तो क्या अगर आप 70 लाख करोड़ भी खर्च कर दें तो भी इस देश को जो आप सुधारना चाहते हैं, उसमें आप को कामयाबी मिलना न आपके लिए मुमकिन है, न हकूमत के लिए मुमकिन है और न पब्लिक रिप्रेज़ेंटेटिव्ज के लिए मुमकिन है। लोग कहते हैं कि गाड हर जगह रहता है लेकिन गाड हर जगह हमें दिखाई नहीं दे रहा है, हमें करप्शन जरूर हर जगह दिखाई दे रही है। आप किसी आफिस में जाइये, किसी मोहल्ले में जाइये, किसी गांव में जाइये, करप्शन हर जगह दिखाई दे रही है। वह करप्शन बड़े पैमाने पर है। बड़े लेबल पर जो करप्शन है पार्लियामेंट में, असेम्बलियां में उसकी चर्चा की जा रही है, कमीशन बैठाए जा रहे हैं और केश सी०बी०आई० के हवाले करते जा रहे हैं। कई कई साल लग रहे हैं और उसके बाद बगैर कुछ सजा के सब को फ्री छोड़ते जा रहे हैं। सिर्फ अखबार वालों के लिए माल-मसाला मिल रहा है लेकिन नतीजा कुछ भी नहीं निकल रहा है। इससे बढ़ कर के आज नीचे लेबल में जहां गरीब रहते हैं, जहां अनपढ़ लोग रहते हैं, जो समझते भी नहीं हैं आपके क्वानीन को, वहीं लूट-खसोट हो रही है, उसकी रोकथाम के लिए विशेष इकदाम लेना जरूरी है। यह बात जरूर है यह काम स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को देखने का रहता है लेकिन मैं बताना चाहता हूं कि खसूसन पावर्टी एलीवेशन प्रोग्राम, एस०सी०, एस०टी० प्रोग्राम को इम्पलीमेंट करने का ज्यादा जिम्मा सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के हाथ में है, डी०आर०डी०ए० के जिम्मे रहता है। अगर आप के डी०आर०डी०ए० के प्रोजेक्टर डायरेक्टर विशेष दिलचस्पी लें तो बहुत हद तक पावर्टी एलीवेशन प्रोग्राम सक्सेसफुल हो सकते हैं। मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूं, इस सिलसिले में खास कर के एक सूचना देना चाहता हूं। इस हकूमत के आने के बाद कई अच्छे काम हो रहे हैं, कैंसर जैसे करप्शन को रोकने के लिए हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर क्या करना चाहिये। फौरन चीफ मिनिस्टर्ज़ की एक कान्फ्रेंस बुला कर इस ताल्लुक से चर्चा करके अच्छे निर्णय ले कर इसकी रोकथाम करने की कोशिश की जानी चाहिये। यह सूचना में आपको देना चाहता हूं जनाब चेयरमैन के माध्यम से।

दूसरी चीज़ मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि हमारे सांसद ग्रामीण इलाकों में जाते हैं, वहां लोगों से मिलते हैं। वहां के लोग अपने मसले इनको बताते हैं, कुछ डवलपमेंट के काम बताते हैं। लेकिन सांसदों को कुछ भी काम करने, साल्व करने और मदद करना इनके हाथ में नहीं है। इसके ज़ेरे नजर कुछ गुज़िश्ता सालों से एक करोड़ रुपया एम०पी० के लिए मुखतस किया गया है, उस एक करोड़ रुपये में जहां कहीं आवाम डिमांड करे डवलपमेंट वर्क्स, वेलफेयर वर्क्स, ऐसे कुछ काम हैं तो फौरन अगर वे जेनुइन वर्क्स है तो संसद सदस्य वहीं के वहीं एलाटमेंट कर सकते हैं आउट आफ दिस वन करोड़। इससे उनका काम हो जाता है। वह सफल होता है। उनको फायदा होता है। मुझे इस बात की भी खुशी है कि हाल ही में स्पीकर साहब की सदारत में पूरी पार्टीज के लीडर्स ने बैठकर यह तय किया है कि एक करोड़ से कुछ फायदा नहीं, दो करोड़ करने जरूरी है। मुझे उम्मीद है, मुझे विश्वास है कि हमारे फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर साहब

अपने जवाब में शायद यह अनाउंस भी करेंगे कि उन्होंने एक करोड़ का दो करोड़ कर दिया है।

इसमें मैं और आपसे अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि दो करोड़ आप कर सकते हैं , बहुत अच्छी चीज है। लेकिन इंप्लीमेंटेशन में बहुत सारे डिफेक्ट्स हैं जो मैं आपके इल्म में लाना चाहता हूं मंत्री जी। There are some instances where the MPs have not allotted funds for different development works in time. एक साल गुजर जाता है, फंड्स उनके नाम से कलेक्टर के पास जमा होते हैं लेकिन एम०पी० साहब लेटर नहीं देते हैं। ऐसे भी कुछ इंस्टांसेज हैं। दूसरा, एम०पीज० एलाटमेंट देते हैं कुछ वर्क्स के लिए और वे फंड्स इंप्लेमेंटेशन एजेंसी के पास जाते हैं लेकिन एक साल होने के बाद भी उसमें खर्च नहीं किया जाता है, कोई अमल नहीं किया जाता है। ऐसी शिकायतें बहुत हैं जो मैं आपके इल्म में लाना चाहता हूं।

इस सिलसिले में आपको यह सूचना देना चाहता हूं कि अगर एम०पीज० के नाम पर एक करोड़ रुपया कलेक्टर के पास जमा हुआ है उसके बाद एक साल के अंदर अगर वह पैसा उन्होंने अलाट नहीं किया-एक्सपेंडीचर तो उनके हाथ में नहीं है—तो वह अमाउंट लैप्स होना चाहिए। मैं आपको यह भी सूचना देना चाहता हूं। दूसरी चीज, अगर फंड्स अलाट करने के बाद जब इंप्लीमेंटेशन एजेंसी को देते हैं तो वे उसका इंप्लीमेंटेशन नहीं करते। इसको भी वर्क के लिहाज से टाइम बाउंड—3 महीने, 6 महीने, 9 महीने या एक साल—कुछ रखना चाहिए। अगर उसके अंदर नहीं करे तो that officer should be taken to task. The Collector is there, he is an All-India Services man, he must be responsible for that. Otherwise, the fruits of the MPLAD Scheme will not reach the commonman.

दूसरी चीज, मैं यह भी अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि कंट्रोलर एण्ड आडीटर जनरल की रिपोर्ट में भिन्न-भिन्न स्टेट्स के अंदर की—कई कमेंट्स होते हैं। जो हम लोगों को गाइडलाइंस बतलायी जाती हैं हम जानते हैं कि इसके बावजूद गाइडलाइंस की खिलाफवर्दी में, मुखालिफत में हम कई ऐसे वर्क्स में फंड्स अलाट कर देते हैं। मैं मंत्री जी के इल्म में यह लाना चाहता हूं कि हम अगर भूलकर, नापड़ी से या गलती से कुछ लिखें—यह जरूर है कि हमारी जिम्मेदारी है—लेकिन आपका कलेक्टर जो सबसे बड़ा एडमिनिस्ट्रेटर हैड रहता है जिले का वह बगैर गाइडलाइंस को देखे कैसे मानता है। मैं यह जवाब मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं।

†اشری سوی پیٹادام چندر ریڈی "آندھرا پردیش":

Thank you Madam Chairperson. At the outset, I would like to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister on behalf of my party as well as on my own behalf for announcing many concessions in the Lok Sabha, particularly with regard to the information technology.

مانیہ منتری جی نے لوک سبھا میں وتّ مانس کے لئے اور کرشی کے لئے کئی شعبوں کی گھوشنا کی ہے۔ وشیش الاؤنس بھی دئے ہیں۔ میں انکو دھنیواد دیتا ہوں۔ لیکن ایک بات میں صاف صاف کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ جب تک "کراس انشوریشس ویلیج" کو یونٹ بنا کر ہر فصل کے لئے امپلیمینٹیشن نہیں کرتے ہیں۔ اس وقت تک کسانوں کے لئے جو بھی اچھے اچھے کام کرنے کے لئے آپ سوچ رہے ہیں ان میں آپ کامیاب نہیں ہو سکیں گے ناکام ہو جائیں گے۔ ہم دیکھ رہے ہیں کہ کئی زمانے سے کئی حکومتیں یہ بات بولتی آرہی ہیں۔ لیکن کسی بھی حکومت نے اسکو عمل میں نہیں لایا۔ مجھے وشواس ہے کہ کم سے کم یہ حکومت یا منتری بہت جلدی ہی اس کراپ انشورنس کو

+ [] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

کسی محلّے میں جایئے۔ کسی گاؤں میں جایئے۔ کرپشن ہر جگہ دکھائی دے رہی ہے۔ وہ کرپشن بڑے پیمانے پر ہے۔ بڑے لیبل پر جو کرپشن ہے پارلیمنٹ میں۔ اسمبلیوں میں اس کی چرچہ کی جارہی ہے کمیشن بٹھائے جارہے ہیں اور سی۔ بی۔ آئی۔ کے حوالے کرتے جارہے ہیں۔ کئی کئی سال لگ رہے ہیں اور اسکے بعد بغیر کچھ سزا کے سب کو بری چھوڑتے جارہے ہیں۔ صرف اخبار والوں کے لئے مال مصالہ مل رہا ہے لیکن نتیجہ کچھ بھی نہیں نکل رہا ہے۔ اس سے بڑھ کر کے آج نیچے لیبل میں جہاں رہتے ہیں۔ جہاں ان پڑھ لوگ رہتے ہیں۔ جو سمجھتے بھی نہیں ہیں آپ کے قوانین کو وہاں جو ووٹ مخصوص ہو رہی ہے اسکی روک تھام کے لئے خاص اقدام لینا ضروری ہے۔ یہ بات ضرور ہے کہ یہ کام اسٹیٹ گورنمنٹ کو دیکھنے کا رہتا ہے۔ لیکن میں بتانا چاہتا ہوں کہ خصوصاً "پارٹی ایل وشن پروگرام" ایس۔ سی۔ ایس ٹی۔ پروگرام" کو امپلی منٹ کرنے کا زیادہ رول سینٹرل گورنمنٹ کے ہاتھ میں ہے۔ ڈی۔ آر۔ ڈی اے۔ کے ذمہ رہتا ہے۔ اگر آپ کے ڈی۔ آر۔ ڈی۔ اے پروجیکٹ ڈائرکٹر و بیچ یونٹ کی سیسز پر ہر کراپ کیلئے لاگو کریں گے۔ پورے دیش میں اسے عمل میں لاکر کسانوں کی مدد کریں گے۔

اس کے ساتھ ہی ساتھ بچوں کی شکشا کے لئے۔ گرہ نرمان کے لئے۔ انفراسٹرکچر کے لئے بہت اچھی مقدار میں الاٹمنٹ کئے گئے ہیں۔ یہ ٹھیک ہے۔ لیکن میں آپکے ذریعہ منتری جی کا دھیان اس طرف لے جانا چاہتا ہوں کہ آپ سات لاکھ کروڑ کے اوپر خرچ کرکے اس دیش کو سدھارنا چاہتے ہیں۔ اس دیش میں اس سماج میں جو سب سے بڑا ایکسٹرہ ہے وہ ہے کرپشن۔ جب تک آپ کرپشن کو دور کرنے کے لئے ٹھوس اقدامات نہیں کریں گے۔ یہ سات کروڑ تو کیا اگر آپ ستر کروڑ بھی خرچ کردیں تو بھی اس دیش کو جو آپ سدھارنا چاہتے ہیں۔ اس میں آپکو کامیابی ملنا نہ آپ کے لئے ممکن ہے۔ نہ حکومت کے لئے ممکن ہے۔ اور نہ پبلک ری پریزنٹیٹو کے لئے ممکن ہے۔ لوگ کہتے ہیں کہ گائے ہر جگہ رہتا ہے۔ لیکن گائے ہر جگہ ہمیں دکھائی نہیں دے رہا ہے۔ ہمیں کرپشن ضرور ہر جگہ دکھائی دے رہی ہے۔ آپ کسی آفس میں جایئے۔

ڈیولپمنٹ ورکس - ویلفیئر ورکس۔
ایسے کچھ کام ہیں تو فوراً اگر وہ جینوئن
ورکس ہے تو سنسیر سے وہیں
کے وہیں الاٹمنٹ کر سکتے ہیں -
آوٹ آف دس ون کروڑ - اس
سے انکا کام ہو جاتا ہے وہ کامیاب
ہوتا ہے - انکو فائدہ ہوتا ہے مجھے
اس بات کی بھی خوشی ہے کہ حال ہی
میں اسپیکر صاحب کی صدارت میں
پوری پارٹیز کے لیڈرس نے بیٹھکر
یہ طے کیا کہ ایک کروڑ سے کچھ فائدہ
نہیں دو کروڑ کرنے ضروری ہیں - مجھے
امید ہے - مجھے وشواس ہے کہ ہمارے
منسٹر صاحب اپنے جواب میں
شاید یہ اناؤنس بھی کریں گے کہ انھوں
نے ایک کروڑ کا دو کروڑ کر دیا ہے -
اسمیں میں آپ سے عرض کرنا چاہتا
ہوں کہ دو کروڑ آپ کر سکتے ہیں بہت
اچھی چیز ہے لیکن امپلی میںٹیشن میں
بہت سارے ڈیفیکٹس ہیں جو میں آپکے
علم میں لانا چاہتا ہوں منتری جی -

There are some instances where the MPs have not allotted funds for different development works in time.

ایک سال گزر جاتا ہے - فنڈ کے
نام سے کلکٹر کے پاس جمع ہوتے ہیں
لیکن ایم - پیز صاحب لیٹر نہیں دیتے

وجیشن و چھٹیاں لیتے ہیں تو بہت حد
تک پارٹی ایلی وی ایشن پروگرام کامیاب ہو
سکتے ہیں - میں آپکو بتانا چاہتا ہوں
اس سلسلے میں خاص کر کے ایک اطلاع
دینا چاہتا ہوں - اس حکومت کے آنے
کے بعد کئی اچھے کام ہو رہے ہیں - کینسر
جیسے کرپشن کو روکنے کے لئے ہندوستان
کے آنرر کیا گرنا چاہیے - فوراً چیف منسٹرس
کی ایک کانفرنس بلا کر اس تعلق سے
چرچہ کر کے اچھے فیصلے لیکر اسکی روک
تھام کرنے کی کوشش کرنی چاہیئے -
یہ اطلاع میں آپکو دینا چاہتا ہوں
جناب چیئرمین صاحب کے مادھیم
سے -

دوسری چیز میں یہ کہنا چاہتا
ہوں کہ ہمارے سانسدگرامین علاقوں
میں جاتے ہیں وہاں لوگوں سے ملتے
ہیں - وہاں کے لوگ اپنے مسئلے انکو
بتاتے ہیں - کچھ ڈیولپمنٹ کے کام
جاتے ہیں - لیکن سانسدوں کو کچھ
بھی کام کرنے - سوپروشن کرنے اور
مدد کرنا اپنے ہاتھ میں نہیں ہے - اسکے
لیئے تقریباً کچھ گزشتہ سالوں سے ایک
کروڑ روپیہ ایم - پی - کے لئے مخصوص کیا
گیا ہے - اس ایک کروڑ روپیہ میں
جہاں تہیں عوام ڈیمانڈ کرے -

ہیں۔ ایسے بھی کچھ انسٹانسز ہیں۔ دوسرا ایم پیز۔ الاٹمنٹ دیتے ہیں کچھ ورکس کے لئے اور وہ فنڈس امپلی منیٹیشن ایجنسی کے پاس جاتے ہیں لیکن ایک سال ہونے کے بعد بھی اسمیں خرچ نہیں کیا جاتا ہے ایسی شکایتیں بہت ہیں جو میں آپکے علم میں لانا چاہتا ہوں۔

اس سلسلے میں آپکو یہ سوچنا دینا چاہتا ہوں کہ اگر ایم۔ پیز کے نام پر ایک کروڑ روپیہ کلکٹر کے پاس جمع ہوا ہے اسکے بعد ایک سال کے اندر وہ پیسہ انھوں نے الاٹ نہیں کیا۔ ایکسپینڈیچر تو اسکے ہاتھ میں نہیں ہے۔ تو وہ اکاؤنٹ ایبل ہونا چاہئے۔ میں آپکو یہ بھی سوچنا دینا چاہتا ہوں۔ دوسری چیز اگر فنڈس الاٹ کرنے کے بعد جب امپلی منیٹیشن ایجنسی کو دیتے ہیں تو وہ اسکا امپلی مینٹیشن نہیں کرتے اسکو بھی ورک کے لحاظ سے ٹائم باؤنڈ۔ تین مہینہ۔ چھ مہینہ۔ نو مہینہ یا ایک سال کچھ رکھنا چاہئے اگر اسکے اندر نہیں کرتے تو۔

That officer should be taken to task. The Collector is there, he is an all India Services man, he must be responsible for that. Otherwise, the fruits of the MPLAD Scheme will not reach the commonman.

دوسری چیز میں یہ بھی عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ آڈیٹر اینڈ آڈیٹر جنرل کی رپورٹ میں مختلف اسپیشٹ کے اندر کی۔ کئی کمنٹس ہوتے ہیں جو ہم لوگوں کو گائیڈ لائنس جاری کی جاتی ہیں۔ ہم جانتے ہیں اسکے باوجود گائیڈ لائنس کی خلاف ورزی میں مخالفت میں۔ ہم کئی ایسے ورکس میں فنڈس الاٹ کر دیتے ہیں۔ میں منتری جی کے علم میں یہ بات لانا چاہتا ہوں کہ ہم اگر بھول کر۔ نا پڑھی سمجھا غلطی سے کچھ لکھیں۔ یہ ضرور ہے کہ ہماری ذمہ داری ہے لیکن آپکا کلکٹر جو سب سے بڑا ایڈمنسٹریٹر ہیڈ رہتا ہے ضلع کا وہ بغیر گائیڈ لائنس کو دیکھے کیسے مانتا ہے میں یہ جواب منتری جی سے جاننا چاہتا ہوں نا

He should be held responsible. Though the responsibility also lies with the MPs, the Collector should also be held responsible. He must be answerable. Many Comptroller and Auditor General reports are expressing that we are doing wrong things. We are allotting funds for works which are not developmental, and which are not in the interest of the public. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to see that this nice scheme, this wonderful scheme and the scheme for which we are going to announce Rs. 2 crore is implemented properly, effectively and judiciously. The Collector should be held responsible. There are several cases that even after two years they have not spent even a single rupee out of the funds allotted by the MPs. There are several such cases. In this regard, I would

request the hon. Minister to kindly invite some of the MPs who have got grievances; some of the MPs have got many grievances. I heard here that they have been given so many works, but no work has been implemented. Therefore, I suggest through you, Madam Deputy Chairperson, to invite some such MPs and hear them and take necessary steps against the staff, against the Executive Agency. With these words, I thank you, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I want to inform the House that hon. Chairman was seized of this problem. Last week he convened a meeting where the Finance Minister was present. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister and Minister of Plan and Programme Implementation was present. I was also there. There were many issues like the misappropriation or the non-utilisation of funds which were sent to the Privileges Committee. The hon. Chairman of the Committee has taken a decision that there is going to be a Committee of the Members of Parliament which would look into it and monitor the Members of Parliament Area Development Scheme. It has been already decided in the meeting which the Chairman had with the leaders of different parties/groups. The hon. Chairman has taken the decision. If you add more responsibility to the Finance Minister, he won't be able to do his other work. This is a grievance of the Members of Parliament and it should be taken care of by the Members of Parliament themselves. Then, The Committee can recommend to the Government as to where something wrong had taken place and where corrective measures are needed. This could be done with the help of each one of you.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Madam, there are guidelines which are issued periodically. If they operate within these guidelines, I think, there should be no problem.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But Mr. Ravi, it happens. They do not follow the guidelines. Take, for example, murder. There is punishment for murder. But still people commit murders. Therefore, we need to have courts. Similarly, even though there are guidelines, this Committee would ensure that they follow these guidelines.

Now, Shri Sanatan Bisi, please.

SHRI SANATAN BISI (Orissa): Madam Deputy Chairman, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Appropriation Bill.

I would like to point out about the approach of the present Government, in terms of the Budget. First of all, I would like to draw your attention to the standard of living of the people in the country. The monthly *per capita* consumption expenditure in the rural areas is Rs. 205.84. In the urban areas, it is Rs. 281.35. So far as the percentage of population living below the poverty line is concerned, it is 37.27 in the rural areas; in the urban areas, it is 35.97. So far as the backward State of Orissa is concerned, the percentage of population living below the poverty line is 49.72 in the rural areas and in the urban areas, it is 48.56.

The Government knows about the standard of living of the poor people. The Government knows about the *per capita* consumption expenditure. Still, what is the Government doing? It has been very beautifully described in a Oriya paper. It is in 'Dharitri'.

अब नमकीन और मिठाई के पैकेट कौन खाता है? गरीब आदमी को खाने के लिए जब चावल नहीं मिलता है, आलू नहीं मिलता है, प्याज नहीं मिलता है, मैडम, "धृतरि" पेपर में गरीब के बारे में कितना अच्छा लिखा है। उड़ीसा में गरीब कितनी तकलीफ में रहता है और गरीब आदमी को मिठाई का पैकेट जो दिया जाएगा, नमकीन का पैकेट जो दिया जाएगा, कौन खाएगा, मसाला का पैकेट कौन खाएगा, मैडम? This is a very pitiable thing. This shows the attitude of the Government.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you allow the import of mushroom and

strawberries, naturally, you will be allowing *namkeen* to be eaten.

SHRI SANATAN BISI: It is like this, Madam. I would like to quote from the editorial of the 'Dharitri' of yesterday. It says; 'The exemption of sweets, *namkeen*, ghee, spices, butter, cheese, from the excise duty is not going to help the common man because we know in how many cases such items are consumed. Only the urban elite use such food items. More than ninety percent of the people struggle to get food which consists of rice, potato and onion. So, this exemption benefits only five to ten per cent of the population'.

This is the character of the Budget which has been presented by this Government.

So far as the inflation rate is concerned, the Government is not certain about how they would control the rising rate of inflation. During May, the inflation rate, based on the Consumer Price Index, hit 10.5 per cent. Madam, this rising inflation is very much hurting the poor people.

Now, as you know, sanctions have been imposed by the United States. The White house spokesman has said: 'The sactions regime had a real impact'. But the hon. Minister, while replying to a question put by me, had said: "A certain degree of uncertainty has been created by the sanctions and suspensions of external assistance" Perhaps, since the Government itself is not certaisn about its existence, they are not in a position to say anything with certainty, so far as the sanctions are concerned.

Madam, I can say with authority that the infrastructure section, particularly, the power sector, would be affected. The economic sanctions may delay the fast-track power projects. I would also like to point out here that the Government has failed to create a sense of confidence in the domestic and foreign investors, as well as in the international financial markets.

So far as the fiscal deficit is concerned, there are two things. What is the Government going to do, so far as maximising the non-debt receipts is concerned? The other thing is about the control of expenditure. Is the Government going to set up an Expenditure Management Commission?

So far as the industrial sector is concerned, my friend has already said about it. Therefore, I am not going to dwell on that point.

The other thing I would like to know is: Why is there such a huge surplus on the capital side? We are not doing anything for capital formation, that is, for creation of assets. It has been very clearly mentioned in the Inforamtion Bulletin at page 28. In the year 1985-86, the revenue deficit was 5888 and the capital surplus was 573. Now, in the year 1998-99, it is 48068 and 48068. These are my submissions.

Think you for giving me the opportunity.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Sanatan Bisi. You have finished within your stipulated time.

SHRI Rama Shanker Kaushik, You have seven minutes.

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक: सात मिनिट में अपनी बात कह दीजिए।

श्री राम शंकर कौशिक: (उत्तर प्रदेश): मैडम, ये तो बहुत कम है।

उपसभापति: क्या करें, आप की पार्टी के मेंबर ही कम हैं।

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक: 9 हैं।

उपसभापति: समय कुल 3 घंटे का है, अगर 4 घंटे का होता तो आप को 9 मिनिट मिलते।

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक: वैसे राष्ट्रीय लोकतांत्रिक मोर्चे में तो हम 18 हैं।

उपसभापति: आप का टाइम लोकतांत्रिक लोगों ने ले लिया।

श्री राम शंकर कौशिक: उपसभापति महोदया, इस विनियोग विधेयक के द्वारा माननीय मंत्री जी 70 खरब,

42 अरब, 22 करोड़, 69 लाख रुपए की मांग लेकर इस सदन के सामने उपस्थित हुए हैं। मैडम, यह बात सही है कि एक साल के बजट से ही देश में व्याप्त सारी समस्याएं दूर हो जाएं, यह संभव नहीं है और मैं भी इसे मानता हूं। आज महंगाई का जो आलम है, बेरोजगारी का जो आलम है, शिक्षा की जो स्थिति है और जो ये बुनियादी सवाल हैं—इन बुनियादी सवालों का हल एक साल के बजट में हो जाय, यह तो मुमकिन नहीं है, लेकिन एक साल के बजट से हम सरकार की मंशा को तो समझ ही सकते हैं कि उस की मंशा क्या है और आगे उस का क्या करने का इरादा है।

मैडम, वैसे तो यह बजट जिस दिन पेश हुआ और लोक सभा में जब फाइनेंस बिल पेश हुआ, उस समय तक लगातार इस बजट में परिवर्तन और छूट की जाती रही हैं। मैडम, पहली दफा केन्द्रीय सरकार के बजट में ऐसा हुआ है और पहली दफा केन्द्रीय सरकार के बजट में यह भी हुआ कि पहले ही दिन, जिस दिन बजट संसद में आया लाखों रुपए की जनता के पैसे की लूट पेट्रोल पंपों पर हुई। मैडम, यह कभी नहीं होता था। इस का साफ मकसद था, इस से साफ जाहिर होता है कि इस सरकार का यह बजट गंभीरता के साथ रखा भी नहीं गया जिस कारण इस में हर रोज परिवर्तन होते रहे, हर रोज चीजें बदलती रहीं और छूट दी जाती रही। मैडम, अब भी सैकड़ों करोड़ रुपए की छूटें दी गयी हैं तो वह पैसा कहां से आएगा और उस से क्या होगा? फाइनेंस मिनिस्टिर साहब कह सकते हैं कि इस से हमारा विकास चढ़ेगा। जहां घाटे की व्यवस्था होती है, वहां विकास बढ़ता है, लेकिन हमारे देश में जहां कि 40 फीसदी लोग गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे रहते हैं, इस घाटे के बजट का प्रभाव आम जनता पर पड़ता है। आम जनता कमर-तोड़ महंगाई के नीचे पिसती है। माननीय मंत्री जी का कहना है कि इससे हो सकता है 6 परसेंट घाटा हो, लेकिन मेरा कहना है कि यह 6 परसेंट से कहीं ज्यादा होगा और महंगाई के मामले में तो माननीय मंत्री जी के एक बयान को मैंने कहीं पढ़ा था जिस में इन्होंने कहा कि इस बजट के कारण कहीं महंगाई नहीं हो रही है। मैडम, तो क्या हम यह मानें कि जो आप ने बम फोड़ा है, उस के कारण महंगाई हो रही है? महंगाई है इस से तो आप भी इंकार नहीं करोगे और पिछले डेढ़ महीने में महंगाई बढ़ी है इस से कोई इंकार नहीं करेगा। मैडम, 50 रुपए किलो खाने का तेल मिल रहा है। दालें तो आम आदमी की खरीद की ताकत से बाहर हो गयी हैं जोकि विशेष रूप से शाकाहारी लोगों के लिए प्रोटीन का एक सुलभ साधन है और जो साधारण सब्जियां हैं उन की भी बुरी हालत है। तो यह महंगाई काहे से हुई? रुपए की कीमत डॉलर के मुकाबले घटती जा रही है। आज जो एक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्थिति है, उस में डॉलर से ही रुपए की कीमत को तौला जाता है जोकि अच्छी बात है या बुरी बात है, इस विषय में नहीं जाऊंगा, लेकिन वस्तुस्थिति यह है कि हम रुपए की कीमत को डॉलर से तौलते हैं और उस तरह से रुपए की कीमत घटती जा रही है। फाइनेन्स डिपार्टमेंट चुपचाप बैठा है, रिजर्व बैंक चुपचाप बैठा है। आखिर यह कैसे ठीक होगा? क्यों यह रुपए की कीमत घटती चली जा रही है? रुपए की कीमत घटने से जो आपने थोड़ी बहुत बढ़ौतरी एग्रीकल्चर में या एजुकेशन में, प्राइमरी एजुकेशन में, या रोड़ के रख-रखाव के मामले में या रोड़ के बनाने के मामले में की है, वह सब धरी की धरी रह जाएगी क्योंकि आपके यहां चीजों की कीमतें बराबर बढ़ती जा रही हैं और आपके रुपए की कीमत बराबर घटती चली जा रही है। आप यही सोचते रहे कि अनिवासी भारतीय जो हैं वह हमारे यहां पूंजी निवेश करेंगे और अपने आप मामला ठीक हो जाएगा। आप यही सोचते रहे कि बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियां, जिनको हम छूट दे रहे हैं, जिनको हम बाजार दे रहे हैं, वह हमारी मदद करेंगी और अपने देशों की सरकारों से कहेंगी कि हमारे ऊपर पाबंदियां न लगाएं, इससे मामला ठीक हो जाएगा। आप सोचते रहे कि जो बड़े देश हैं दुनिया के, उन बड़े देशों में कुछ देश हमारा साथ देंगे और मामला ठीक हो जाएगा। लेकिन, जो जी-8 का सम्मेलन हुआ, ग्रुप-8 की मीटिंग हुई, उसमें सारे देशों ने आपके खिलाफ प्रस्ताव पास किया। अनिवासी भारतीयों का पूंजी निवेश कम हो गया और बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनी तो अपने फायदे के लिए हैं वह आपके रिश्तों को सुधारने के लिए नहीं हैं। इधर रुपए की कीमत घटती चली गई और महंगाई बढ़ती चली गई। आप कहते है कि इस बजट से महंगाई नहीं बढ़ी है और बम फटने से भी नहीं बढ़ी है, तो फिर कैसे बढ़ी है? क्या खाली ईश्वर कृपा से यह बढ़ गई या किसी दैवीय विपदा से यह बढ़ गई? ऐसा नहीं है। इस पर सोचना पड़ेगा कि किस प्रकार से यह बढ़ी है और इसको ठीक करने के क्या उपाय हो सकते हैं।

महोदया, यह आम आदमी की जिंदगी से जुड़ा सवाल है। जो बुनियादी सवाल हैं, उन बुनियादी सवालों को हल करने के लिए आपने कितना पैसा इस बजट में बढ़ाया है? आप देखिए, जो प्राइमरी स्कूल हैं या प्राईमरी शिक्षा है उस पर आपने कितना पैसा बढ़ाया, कितना परसेंट आपने बढ़ाया है? एग्रीकल्चर को देखिए, एग्रीकल्चर उत्पाद हमारे यहां सकल राष्ट्रीय उत्पाद का 50 फीसदी था जो घटकर 25 फीसदी रह गया है।

इसको आप कैसे सुधारेंगे? मैं यह बात मान सकता था अगर ऐसा होता कि इंडस्ट्रीज में चूंकि हमारा उत्पाद बहुत बढ़ गया है इसलिए यह हो गया है, लेकिन ऐसा नहीं है। इसलिए मैं इसको नहीं मानता क्योंकि 76 फीसदी लोग आज भी खेती पर निर्भर करते हैं हमारे इस देश में। अब जब हमारे सकल उत्पाद में हमारे खेती का उत्पाद 50 परसेंट यानि आधा रह गया है, तो निश्चित रूप से हमारे किसान की परेशानियां बढ़ी है। उस किसान की परेशानियों को दूर करने के लिए आप न तो सिंचाई के साधन मुहैया कर रहे हैं, न बिजली की व्यवस्था पूरी कर रहे हैं और न ही कुछ ऐसे उपाय किए जा रहे है जिससे कि काश्तकार को इन्सेंटिव मिले, एक उनको प्रेरणा मिले अपनी पैदावार बढ़ाने की। पैदावार आज देश में घट रही है और पैदावार इसलिए नहीं बढ़ रही है क्योंकि आप काश्तकार को इन्सेंटिव देने के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं। उनकी जो आवश्यकताएं हैं, उन आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति करने के लिए आपके पास पैसा नहीं है। बाहर से गेहूं मंगाने के लिए तो आपके पास साढ़े सात सौ रुपया प्रति क्विंटल है, लेकिन अपने काश्तकार को प्रति क्विंटल देने के लिए पांच सौ रुपया है और वह भी पांच सौ रुपया बड़ी मुश्किल से आप देखते हैं बिचोलियों के माध्यम से। जो आपकी राज्य सरकारें हैं, उन राज्य सरकारों ने बिचोलियों के जरिए से किसानों की खूब लूट की है। हमारे उत्तर प्रदेश में तो खूब लूट हुई है।

महोदया, मैं मिनिस्टर साहब से यह कहना चाहता हूं की आप इस बात पर जरा गौर करें और जो घाटे वाली यह व्यवस्था है, व्यवस्था को ठीक करें। आज हमारे देश में बहुत ही बुरी हालत इस महंगाई के मामले में है। लोगों की परेशानियां बढ़ती चली जा रही हैं। आप इस पर फोरन विचार करें। आप हमें यह बताएं कि आपने यह जो सेकड़ों करोड़ों रुपए की इस समय घाटे की व्यवस्था की है या जो छूटें आप दे रहे हैं, उसकी पूर्ति कैसे होगी और जो पहले भी आपने घाटा दिखाया था, उस घाटे की पूर्ति कैसे होगी? आपका जो ईन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर है, उसको भी आप ठीक कीजिए। सड़कों के मामला में मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि आप कितना पैसा इसमें लगाते है? जो आपको टैक्स रोड के जरिए मिलता है, उसका भी केवल 26 फीसदी पैसा आप सड़कों पर लगाते हैं। दूसरे देशों में चले जाइए, आप देखेंगे कि अमरीका में सौ परसेंट पैसा सड़कों पर लगाते हैं। जो उनके पास टेक्स के रूप में आता है। जापान में चले जाइए, एक सौ दस परसेंट पैसा वह रोड पर लगाते हैं, जो उनके पास टैक्स के रूप में आता है। जब तक आप यह चीजें ठीक नहीं करेंगे, जब तक आप इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर ठीक नहीं करेंगे, काम नहीं चलेगा। यह सड़कों का मामला, संचार व्यवस्था, हमारे लिए बहुत आवश्यक हैं। यह हमारे शरीर में जैसे खून की नलकियां होती है, नसें होती हैं, वैसे ही यह हमारे देश की तरक्की की नसें हैं। इनको अगर आप ठीक नहीं करेंगे तो आपका इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर ठीक नहीं होगा और आप बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों को जो तरह तरह की छूट दे रहे है, छोटे छोटे पदार्थ बनाने के लिए छूट दे रहे हैं उससे आपका सारा मामला गड़बड़ हो रहा है, इस देश के जो छोटे, लघु उद्योग है वह ठप्प हो रहे हैं। आपने 342 आइटम्स पर जो छूट दी थी, उस छूट से क्या हुआ? जो बाहर से हम मंगाते हैं, उसमें आपने 342 आइटम्स पर आयात शुल्क में छूट दी है, वे ऐसे आइटम थे जिनसे या तो हमारे देश में उपभोक्तावाद बढ़ेगा या हमारी छोटी-छोटी इंडस्ट्रीज को नुकसान होगा। मैं आपको बताता हूं, मेरी निजी जानकारी है कि कम्प्यूटर के जो छोटे-छोटे कारखाने चल रहे थे, वे कारखाने ठप्प हो गए इसलिए ठप्प हो गए क्योंकि जो चीज़ वे बनाते थे, वह बाहर से आ रही है, आयात शुल्क आपने कम कर दिया है और उनका रोजगार ठप्प हो गया। तो ऐसी स्थिति में यह जो 70,42,22,69,00,000 विनियोग विधेयक के रूप में वित्त मंत्री जी मांग रहे हैं, वह देश के हित में नहीं है, इसलिए मैं इसका विरोध करता हूं। धन्यवाद।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, you have just five minutes.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam Deputy Chairman, I take this opportunity to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to three short points. Number one, on the 8th May, some officers in the Income Tax Department below the rank of Commissioner were transferred by the Central Board of Direct Taxes. The Board has always the power to transfer officers below the rank of Commissioner. They have utilised that power. On the very same day, officers below the rank of Commissioner were transferred by the CBDT. The Secretary (Revenue) was on record saying that he was holding back the papers with regard to the transfers of fifty officers of Commissioner's rank. The Secretary (Revenue) had also clarified that he would look into the papers and

find out if the papers were according to the normal standard.

On the 8th July, the Member (Personnel), CBDT had issued a circular and that circular was sent to all the Income Tax Officers. In that circular, the Member (Personnel) of the CBDT had made it amply clear that there was not going to be any annual transfers of officers of the rank of Commissioners. Madam, I repeat the circular of the 8th July issued by the Member (Personnel) of the CBDT said that there was not going to be any annual transfers of the officers of the rank of Commissioners. The Member, CBDT advised the officers of that rank to concentrate on their work and to seek fulfilment of the targets with regard to collection of income tax. This was on the 8th July.

Madam, within a week of issuing of the circular, a number of officers of the rank of Commissioners were transferred throughout the country. It includes four officers who were stationed at Chennai. Madam, as you know, all these four officers were handling or were tackling very sensitive cases with regard to the income tax violation by a sensitive political leader of Tamil Nadu.

My question is: whether the circular of such nature was issued by the CBDT. If a circular of such nature was issued, why were the four officers transferred? The only point that I know was that in between 8th May and 8th July, some important personalities have visited Chennai. It included the hon. Defence Minister. It was reported that the hon. Defence Minister had a long discussion with a former Chief Minister of that State. According to the Press reports, many important and sensitive issues were discussed. Therefore, my point is: why were these transfer orders issued by the CBDT in Supersession of the circular issued by the CBDT? I would like to know whether it was done after the visit of an important member of the Cabinet to that State. This is important because if the functioning of the CBDT is not improved, the tax collection will not improve; and if the tax collection does not improve, in that case, the Budgetary deficit is going to widen further. Therefore, I seek a clarification from the hon. Finance Minister in this respect.

My second point is, we are really surprised, rather dismayed, at the total unconcern of the Government to a situation which we call 'crippling economic situation of the country'. It is total unconcern. The Government is aware of the fact that some of the economic fundamentals are going wrong every day. But we are yet to know what the strategy of the Government is to deal with the problem of recession, with the problem of stagnation, with the other problems that are vitally affecting the economy of our country. It is all well known that there is a negative growth in industry, there is a decline in agriculture. These are all known facts. But what is not known, what the hon. Minister should tell us, is this. We had 26 billion American dollars as reserve in October, 1997. As per my information, Madam, within a span of several months, there has been a net outflow of foreign exchange reserve of atleast 1.6 billion American dollars. If the present outflow of foreign exchange continues, then, it is going to have a severe impact on the economic situation of the country. I would like to know the condition of foreign exchange reserve and what the Government is going to do to hold back the outflow or to ensure that the foreign exchange reserve is maintained at a reasonable level.

Madam, the price condition today is well known. It is well known that the country is facing a double-digit inflation. The WPI calculation of price level is all a fraud. The Wholesale Price Index is a total fraud and the fraud has been continuing over the years by the successive Governments, by the successive Finance Ministers. Actually, the country is going through a period of doubledigit inflation. what is the Government's attitude with regard to inflation? What steps is the

Government going to take? The hon. Finance Minister may kindly tell the country with regard to the great inflationary situation.

My third point is, the House knows it very well that there has been a widespread violation of labour laws in the country. It is widespread. It is being done by the Government of India and the Ministry of Finance is being held responsible for that by the different departments of the Government. There are at least one lakh workers in the country who have not been getting their wages for eight months. There are places in West Bengal, there are industries in West Bengal owned by the Central Government, where wages have not been paid for eight months. These units are owned by the President of the country. If the Government itself indulges in violation of labour laws, what is going to happen to the labour scenario of the country? Not only that. The Payment of Wages Act is being violated with impunity. The Provident Fund Act and the Gratuity Act are also being violated by the Government. I would like to know what the Government is going to do with regard to this delinquency in regard to labour laws being perpetrated by the Government of India.

Coming to my last point, the Government proposes to mop up, from disinvestment, about Rs. 5432 crores. How is the money going to be utilised? Are they going to utilise the money to bridge the Budgetary gap, the widening Budgetary gap? Or, are they going to utilise the money for the economic revival, for the revival of the public sector, for bringing about a better situation in industry?

Madam, while concluding, I think the Government itself is adopting the policy of total carelessness, casualness, with regard to the economic situation that involves the very future of the country. Thank you very much.

SHRI R.K. KUMAR (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I am speaker No. 10, at the fag end of the day. The time allotted to my party is three minutes. So, I will be very brief and to the point. I should not be repetitive. What we are discussing is the Appropriation Bill. Though in May's Parliamentary Practice, it is said that on the Motion of Thanks to the Queen's Address or on Budget, one can speak anything under the sky, I will restrict myself only to this Appropriation Bill and particularly to the expenditure.

5.00 P.M.

Madam, two years back, when the then Finance Minister ended his speech with the Urdu couplet saying

"चले चलिए कि चलना भी तो दलीले कामरानी है,
जो थक कर बैठ जाते हैं वह मंजिल पा नहीं सकते है।"

उपसभापतिः जरा रिपीट कर दीजिए।

श्री आर० के० कुमारः उनकी हमने बहुत तारीफ किया था, वह भी मद्रास से हैं, हम भी तमिलियन हैं, हम भी धोती पहनते हैं। हमने बोला है-

"मैं शायर तो नहीं,
जब से मैंने मंत्री को सुना मुझे भी शायरी आ गई।"

मैंने यह भी बोला है कि यह नहीं है कि जो थक कर बैठ जाते हैं वह मंजिल नहीं पा सकते हैं, जो डर कर बैठ जाते हैं वह भी मंजिल नहीं पा सकते हैं। डर किस बात के लिए?

There is a fear to reduce expenditure! Madam, we are on the Appropriation Bill. The perpetual fear to reduce expenditure is causing a lot of harm. In personal life, in business life or anywhere, income is not in our hands. What kind of revenue they estimated last year? I don't want to go into that Rs. 22,000 crores shortfall in collection of revenue was there. For that the political bosses have paid the price in the election. That is why we have a new Finance Minister. Before I go to the expenditure side, my question before the House is, what about the bureaucratic responsibility? How did we project Rs. 22,000 crores revenue collection? Whether it was over-estimated revenue collection or whether there was a total failure to collect. One of the two reasons should be responsible for this

situation. Either I have failed to collect so much money or I have deliberately over-estimated. One of the two things should be responsible for this situation. Now, coming back to expenditure, I would like to say that the then Finance Minister had very cleverly stated that he would constitute an Expenditure Management Commission and then started saying that no leader of the Opposition was willing to head that Commission. I referred to this thing when I intervened while Mr. Chaturvedi was speaking. Now, the then Finance Minister is himself in the Opposition and the present Finance Minister can request him to probably head the Expenditure Reforms Commission to see that expenditure is kept under control. Many things have been said about subsidy. While totally agreeing with my learned friend, Mr. Vayalar Ravi, I request the Finance Minister to go through the entire gamut of subsidy and see that only those subsidies which result in asset creation or employment generation or skill enhancement should be retained. All other subsidies should be gradually phased out. This is my suggestion. How far the hon. Finance Minister will be able to achieve this, this is for him to decide and work on that. With these words, I conclude. I have not exceeded three minutes. Thank you very much, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You were a party to this Budget. What can you say?

SHRI R.K. KUMAR: I was not a party. Whatever had happened had happened. Had I continued to be in the hospital, then the Budget-making process would have been delayed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It was said as a compliment, not as a complaint. Shri S. S. Surjewala. You have got ten minutes.

SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA (Haryana): Madam, I will conclude before that. Madam, the Appropriation Bill is being discussed in the House. A large amount of money has been allocated for agriculture and allied departments. The claims of this Government are very tall. They are saying that they are going to bring a lot of new policies. They are also speaking about the new agricultural policy which has never come into being like most of their other programmes. The implementation is far behind. I had mentioned this thing once before. I mention these things casually and not while speaking. This Government's priority to agriculture and the agriculturists which is supposed to be the most important avocation in the country providing employment to about 70 per cent people in the country. All the industries, trades, businesses depend on agricultural production and agricultural produce. In the history of 50 years of the country, after independence, this is the first Government which could not appoint a full-fledged Agriculture Minister. It is revealed that the Prime Minister is the Agriculture Minister. In that way, the Prime Minister has held all the portfolios which are supposed to be allocated to others. Has the Prime Minister got any time to devote to the agricultural problems? The country is passing through a very deep crisis in agricultural production. The agriculturists, including the farm labour and the artisans who are directly connected with agriculture, have started resorting to mass suicides in the country. I say that hundreds of farmers, have committed suicide on account of successive failures of crops, debt-trap, unemployment, shrinkage of *darshan*, Madam. Probably, the players behind the market forces are either the multinationals or the very large stock exchanges located in Bombay, Calcutta, Tokyo, New York and London. They have determined the prices of all commodities. After liberalisation, the entire economy of the country, particularly of the farmers, has been thrown before the wolves of the market forces. What is actually happening is, wheat from Ausutralia is being imported by this Government at Rs. 850/- per quintal. But what is the price of Indian wheat? In the market it is only Rs. 510/-

per quintal. The price of Australian wheat, which is more inferior, which has a short life, is Rs. 850/- per quintal after its landing in the country. This is the face of this Government which claims that they are going to bring a new farm policy, a new agriculture policy. Madam, you look at the plight of the farmers. What is happening actually is not many people, while sitting in cool houses of Delhi, know the laws of various banks. As far as the cooperative banks are concerned, which are supposed to primarily deal with advancing loans to the agriculturists, charge 16 to 18 per cent interest from the farmers. What is more surprising is, the cooperative banks have a right, the junior most employee in the cooperative department has a right to detain a farmer who has missed only one instalment, and put him, without any remand, without taking him before any senior officer, in civil prison for 40 days! Is this the civil liberty? Is this the Constitution of the country? What more can I say about their plight? All the expenses incurred on the food he is eating, that useless thing called 'food' which is served to him in jail, are added to his loan figure. He is supposed to pay for the food he has eaten against his will and, I say, illegally. This is the plight of the farmers. What is happening? The tractors and other farm machinery are being given to the farmers by co-operative and other banks. If a sum of Rs. 3 lakhs is sanctioned for a tractor, he is only paid Rs. 2.5 lakhs. A sum of Rs. 50,000 is gobbled by the tractor dealers and the bank managers. As far as the nationalised banks are concerned, it is beyond anybody's imagination. We don't know how the farmers are living their life. The nationalised banks charge up to 24%. The principle of *dan dupat* is not being made applicable to the nationalised banks at the end of the 20th century. I can list a large number of farmers who have taken Rs. 1 lakh from a nationalised bank and paid Rs. 3 lakhs. Still they owe Rs. 1 lakh. It is pending against them. The law of *dan dupat*, the principle of *dan dupat* is that nobody can charge more than the principal. If the loan is Rs. 1 lakh, the interest cannot exceed more than Rs. 1 lakh. But the nationalised banks are following the *chakravradhivyaj*. ब्याज के ऊपर ब्याज और उसकी कोई लिमिट नहीं है। What more? They have the authority. They can go to the civil court and get a decree against the farmer within one month because the documents are there. No farmer is denying that he has taken a loan. What happens? They auction the land of the farmer. The farmers are very proud people. They may be owning a small piece of land. Since they are attached to the land from the time of their forefathers, they say, "this is my mother", They sacrifice their life for their mother. If somebody's mother is being sold in auction in a village, if somebody's father or son is being detained in civil prison for 40 days, he commits suicide. That is the reason why farmers are committing suicide in the country. Many people don't understand this reason. They don't understand why this is happening. For the last two years the entire cotton crop from Pakistan border to Tamil Nadu has been completely destroyed and all the other crops were also badly damaged. Has the Government paid any penny to help the farmers? None of the State Governments—I know about Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and other States—has come forward to help the farmers and to save their life and the country. The farm produce is declining year after year. The farmers are the backbone of this country. If the plight of the farmers continue, lakhs and lakhs of farmers die and go to heaven. Of course, this Government can bring a new agricultural policy. They can watch from heaven what a beautiful new agricultural policy this Government is going to bring! Therefore, I urge upon, through you, Madam, the Government to have some compassion for the farmers, if nothing else. Please try to save the farmers. I demand that the rate of interest charged by the nationalised banks and the co-

operative banks from farmers, farm labourers, artisans, etc., should not exceed more than 6% in any case, if the Government wants the farmers to stop committing suicide. *(Time bell rings)*..... I will take only one more minutes. Secondly, the dependants of those farmers who have committed suicide should be paid Rs. 1 lakh per family; otherwise, they may also commit suicide. Thirdly, all the inputs in this country are spurious. Farmers are being cheated. The Government should come out with a draconion law so that those who are cheating farmers can be put behind bars for at least 10 years. There is need for new agriculture cropping patters, modernisation of agriculture, setting up of growth centres at a distance of every 50 kilometres, providing inputs including seeds, fertilizer, farm machinery, cheap bank loans, cold storages, processing units, packaging units and also farm friendly market.

Madam, if the Government fails to come to the rescue of farmers immediately, then the situation will be irretrievable and nobody will be able to retrieve the situation. This country is heading towards disaster because farmers are facing a lot of difficulties.

उपसभापति: श्री बलविन्दर सिंह भुंडर। आपकी पार्टी के तीन मिनट हैं। आपकी यह पहली स्पीच है?

सरदार बलविन्दर सिंह भुंडर (पंजाब): डिप्टी चेयरमैन साहिबा, हमारी दोस्ती बड़ी पार्टी के साथ है, इसका भी लिहाज रखा जाना चाहिए।

उपसभापति: बड़ी पार्टी वालों ने तो अपना टाइम पहले ही खत्म कर दिया। आपके लिए कुछ छोड़ा नहीं। हमेशा बड़ी मछली छोटी मछली को खा जाती है।

सरदार बलविन्दर सिंह भुंडर: यह खाने वाले नहीं हैं।

उपसभापति: आप 5 मिनट बोलिएगा।

सरदार बलविन्द्र सिंह भुंडर: मैडम डिप्टी चेयरमैन साहिबा, तुसी टाइम दीता मैं कोशिश करूंगा कि सारी बातों पर जाने के बजाए सबजेक्ट पर बात करूं, टू दि प्वाइंट बात करूं जिससे मेरा टाइम भी ठीक रहे और बात भी ठीक कर सकूं।

डिप्टी चेयरमैन साहिबा, त्वाडी राहीं मैं पहले आनरेबल मिनिस्टर जी से यह कहना चाहता हूं कि आजादी के पचास साल के बाद जो देश का सबसे अहम सैक्टर था, उसके लिए सारी पार्टी वाले एक मत होकर कह रहे हैं कि देश की 75 परसेंट जो पापुलेशन है वह खेती-बाड़ी पर निर्भर है। लेकिन इस सैक्टर की तरफ किसी ने कभी कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया। पहली बार यह हुआ है कि आनरेबल मिनिस्टर साहब ने 58 परसेंट बजट एग्रीकल्चर में बढ़ाया है। इसी से हम अंदाजा लगा सकते हैं कि गवर्नमेंट की मंशा क्या है। देश की तरक्की के जो अहम अंग हैं, अहम स्त्रोत हैं, वह मेन दो हैं। एक इंडस्ट्री है और दूसरा खेती है। सबसे पहले खेती है। खेती पर ही देश की सारी आबादी निर्भर है। खेती के साथ ही इंडस्ट्री चलती है, बिजनेस चलता है। इसलिए मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि आनरेबल फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर ने इसमें जो यह ज्यादा फंड अलाट किया है, यह बड़ी अच्छी बात है और इसकी मैं प्रशंसा करता हूं। साथ ही इन्होंने जो नाबार्ड की रोयर कैपिटल को इन्क्रीज किया है यह बहुत अच्छी बात है। 500 करोड़ रुपया इन्क्रीज किया गया है, इसका फायदा किसानों को मिलेगा। साथ ही इन्होंने जो प्लान डेवलपमेंट कमांड इरीगेशन प्रोजक्ट में ज्यादा रुपया रखा है, यह भी अच्छी बात है। साथ ही यह अच्छी बात नहीं, यूरिया के प्राइस नहीं बढ़ाने चाहिए थे, न मिल्क प्रोडक्ट पर टैक्स लगना चाहिए था लेकिन यह बढ़ी हुई दर सरकार ने सब के कहने पर वापस लेकर बड़ा अच्छा काम किया है। मैं इस सब कदमों की प्रशंसा करता हूं। साथ ही आपके जरिए मैं कहना चाहता हूं फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर जी से कि सारे देश में यह चर्चा हो रही है कि मंहगाई बढ़ रही है, मुल्क में गरीबी बढ़ रही है, गरीबों का बुरा हाल है और किसान का उससे भी बुरा हाल है। किसान सुइसाइड कर रहा है, यह बहुत चिन्ता की बात है। यह जो अखबारों में आ रहा है, यह दुरुस्त है। पिछली दफा हमारे पंजाब गवर्नमेंट के चीफ मिनिस्टर जो थे, उन्होंने सेंट्रल मिनिस्टर साहब को बोला कि आप सब से ज्यादा पंजाब के किसान को अमीर मानते हैं। आप सोचिये, देखिये, एक कमेटी बना दीजिये जो इस बात की जांच करे कि वाकई पंजाब का किसान अमीर है या इसमें कोई संका है। लेकिन देश का पेट हमने भर दिया है, हमारे किसान की जो हालत है, उसका आप अन्दाजा लगाइये कि कितनी बुरी हालत है। जो सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट ने आंकड़े पेश किये थे, मैं आपके सामने पेश करना चाहता हूं। आज 5600 करोड़ का कर्ज पंजाब के किसान के जिम्मे है। यह पंजाब के किसान की बात है जो सब से ज्यादा अमीर

गिना जाता है। देश के किसान की बात तो इससे भी बदतर है। इसलिए मैं आनरेबल मिनिस्टर साहब से कहना चाहता हूं कि अगर देश को तरक्की के रास्ते पर ले जाना है और फारेन डेट के जाल से बचाना है तो किसान कि खेती पर बहुत जोर से पहल देनी पड़ेगी। सब से पहले मेरा सुझाव है कि जो क्रॉप इंश्योरेंस स्कीम है इसको आप बड़े ज़ोर से लागू करिये। उसमें ठीक संशोधन करिये। अब तक जो नीति है, वह किसी काम की नहीं है। इसको ठीक बना कर बड़े पैमाने पर शुरू करना चाहिये। पहले तो इस पर ज़ोर देना चाहिये।

दूसरा, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर साहब से कि इंडस्ट्री की तरह जैसे उनको बड़े बड़े लोन दिये जाते हैं, अगर इंडस्ट्री सिक हो जाती है तो लोन माफ कर दिये जाते हैं, फिर उसको रिवाइव करने के लिए लोन दिया जाता है। क्या खेती उससे कम है? खेती को भी हमें इसी तरीके से लेना चाहिये। खेती सेक्टर में जो लोन हैं, वह किसानों की सुविधा के मुताबिक अच्छे देने चाहियें। उस पर रेट आफ इंटेरेस्ट जो अब 16-17 परसेंट है, कम्पाउंड इंटेरेस्ट है, वह नहीं होना चाहिये। यह इंटेरेस्ट 8 परसेंट के करीब होना चाहिये। यह आपको नाबार्ड को आर०बी०आई० को हिदायत करनी चाहिये कि ब्याज कम होना चाहिये। जब किसान का नुकसान हो जाता है, अगर इंडस्ट्री सिक हो जाए या किसी और कारण आग वगैरह लग जाए तो सब कर्जा माफ कर दिया जाता है, कई बार सेम की वजह से, कल्लर लैंड की वजह से या ओलों वगैरह के कारण किसान का नुकसान हो जाता है तो हम उसके नुकसान की पूर्ति 10 परसेंट भी नहीं करते हैं। इसलिए मैं आपके ज़रिये यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इसकी पूर्ति हमें इंडस्ट्री की तरह सेंट-परसेंट करनी चाहिये ताकि किसान जो कर्ज के बोझ के कारण नीचे दबा जा रहा है, सारे हिन्दुस्तान का किसान और न दब जाए, अगर किसान दब जाएगा तो सारा देश नीचे चला जाएगा, दब जाएगा, जो आज सब पार्टियां बात कर रही हैं। इसके साथ ही मैं एक सुझाव और फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर साहब को देना चाहता हूं। बड़े ट्रेक्टर, 30 हार्स पावर से 60 हार्स पावर के ट्रेक्टरों को डिसकरेज करना चाहिये। उनके लिए लोन नहीं देना चाहिये क्योंकि उसकी यूटीलिटी उतनी उनको नहीं है जितनी स्माल ट्रेक्टर से है। आज देश में स्माल होल्डिंग ज्यादा हो गई है। इसलिए स्माल ट्रेक्टरों पर रेट आफ इंटेरेस्ट कम करना चाहिये, लोन जल्दी देना चाहिये और जो सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से ड्यूटीज़ हैं या स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के टेक्स हैं, वह माफ कर देने चाहियें ताकि चीप प्राइस पर ट्रेक्टर किसानों को मिल सकें और किसान मशीनी युग का फायदा उठा सकें और खेती में कामयाब हो सकें। यह मेरे कुछ सुझाव हैं। इसके साथ ही, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि अगर देश के किसान ने तरक्की करनी है, खेती को हमने आगे ले जाना है तो एग्रीकल्चर और अलाइड सेक्टर्ज़ में नई टेक्नोलोजी को इंटरनेशनल लेवल पर एक्सचेंज करने का प्रोग्राम बनाना चाहिये ताकि हमारा किसान दूसरे देशों से हार्टिकल्चर, फ्लोरीकल्चर सेक्टर और दूसरी क्रॉप्स के लिए टेक्नोलोजी ले आए ताकि हम उसमें कामयाब हों। आज दिन-प्रति-दिन नीचे जा रहे हैं। यह सब से बड़ी बात है, जिसको सब पार्टियां कह रही हैं लेकिन अलग अलग ढंग से कह रही हैं। मैं आनरेबल मिनिस्टर साहब से आपके जरिये यह सुझाव देना चाहता हूं मुल्क में एग्रीकल्चर प्रोडक्ट्स को प्राइस इंडेक्स के साथ लिंक जब तक नहीं किया जाता है तब तक हमारा किसान न कर्ज के बोझ से ऊपर उठ सकेगा और जो उसकी सुइसाइड करने की दशा है, वह बनी रहेगी। इसलिए मैं ज़ोर से कहना चाहता हूं कि हमें कोशिश करनी चाहिये। हमारे इम्पलाइज़ की पे प्राइस इंडेक्स के हिसाब से पे कमीशन फिक्स करता है, इंडस्ट्री भी प्राइस इंडेकस के साथ चलती है, लेबर को भी हम प्राइस इंडेक्स के साथ कुछ स्टेटों में दे रहे हैं, सारी स्टेटें तो नहीं दे रही हैं, इसलिए किसान की प्रोडेक्ट्स को अगर प्राइस इंडेक्स के साथ नहीं जोड़ा जाता है, मैं उम्मीद करता हूं कि इस पर ज़ोर लगा कर सरकार को ध्यान देना चाहिये जिससे हिन्दुस्तान का किसान जो आज बोझ के नीचे दबा हुआ है, उसके साथ देश का भी नुकसान हो रहा है, देश को उससे बचाया जा सके। मैं एक फिगर आपको और देना चाहता हूं—जो प्राइस इंडेक्स है एग्रीकल्चर के मुकाबले। यह 1970-71 में 100 था जो किसान चीज देता था मारकेट में। अब उसके मुकाबले 645 है। 6.45 हुआ है। के मुकाबले। जो उसकी कास्ट आफ लिविंग थी जो चीज खरीदता था मारकेट से 1970-71 में 100 था तो अब 735 है। वह 6.45 बढ़ा है इधर 7.35 बढ़ गया है ..**(समय की घंटी)** 100 के अगेंस्ट 88 परसेंट प्राइस इंडेक्स उसके बराबर है। इसलिए 12 परसेंट का, 12 यूनिट का उसको लास हुआ। इस-एक साल के सारे फारमर्स के लास को अगर नेशनल लेविल पर जोड़ लेंगे—1994-95 को तो वह 60 हजार करोड़ का लास अकेले हिंदुस्तान के किसान को एक साल में हुआ है। जिस किसान का इतना बुरा हाल है उसको कौन बचा सकता है। सिवाय बातें हम सब पार्टियों वाले कर रहे हैं लेकिन एकमत होकर ऐसा नहीं सोच रहे हैं कि इसका क्या नतीजा होगा अगर देश का जो एग्रीकल्चर सेक्टर है उसमें पैदा करने

वाला ही तबाह हो जाएगा। हम सीड अच्छी दें, पेस्टिसाइड्स अच्छी दें, टेक्नालाजी अच्छी दें—अगर उसको प्राइसेज नहीं मिलेंगी तो बाकी सब चीजें फेल हो जाएंगी। इसलिए मैं जोर देकर यह कहना चाहता हूं आनरेबुल मिनिस्टर साहब से कि आपने कुछ अच्छे कदम चुने हैं पहली बार। जब देश की आजादी के बाद पहला प्लान था तो उसमें 10 परसेंट खर्च इस सेक्टर पर किया गया था, सेंकेंड में 5 परसेंट था, थर्ड में 7 परसेंट था, फोर्थ में 12 परसेंट था, फिफ्थ में 8 परसेंट, सिक्स्थ में 6 परसेंट और सेवेंथ में 5 परसेंट था। एटथ फाइव इयर प्लान में जो पीछे गया उसमें 5.18 परसेंट था। तो 10 से 5 हो गया। कौन इस देश को बचा सकता है। इसलिए मैं धन्यवादी हूं कि इन्होंने पहली बार इस सेक्टर पर काफी अच्छा प्लान में रुपया रखा है ताकि इस सेक्टर को तरजीह देकर देश को अपने पैरों पर खड़ा किया जाए।

एक बात आखिर में कहना चाहता हूं। हम सबको एकमत होकर सोचना चाहिए। इधरले इधर आ जाते हैं और इधरले उधर आ जाते हैं। इस बात से फर्क नहीं पड़ता है। जितनी देश में गरीबी बढ़ गयी है, जितना देश में हम गरीबी के नीचे जा रहे हैं और बेरोजगारी बढ़ रही है, उसका हल यह नहीं कि हम एक दूसरे पर ब्लेम करें। यह तो 30-40 साल की पार्टी पालिसी है। एक बजट के साथ न देश तरक्की कर सकता है न देश डाउन जा सकता है। पार्टी पालिसी जरूर होती है एक बजट की। इसलिए यह जो लगातार, कंटीनुअस पालिसी है उसका नतीजा यह है कि देश गरीबी के जाल और कर्ज के जाल में फंस गया है। इसको निकालने के लिए पहला प्वाइंट क्या हम भूल गए। देश की आबादी आज सौ करोड़ चली गयी है। कोई पार्टी बोलती नहीं है। सब छोड़ गए। सबसे पहले इकट्ठे होकर हमें इस पर जोर देना चाहिए। आनरेबुल मैडम, मैं त्वाडे जरिए यह भी कहना चाहूंगा कि सख्त स्टेप पहले किसी और पर न लें, हम आप ही पर सख्त स्टेप लें। जो पार्लियामेंट वाले हैं हम लोगों को सजेस्ट करते हैं, हम आप सजेस्ट करें कि मेम्बर पंचायत से लेकर मेम्बर पार्लियामेंट तक, मिनिस्टर तक, एम.एल.ए. तक जो 40 साल की उम्र से कम है, उसको कोई टिकट न दें जिसके एक से ज्यादा बच्चे हों। जो 60 साल से ऊपर है उसको माफ कर दीजिए। बहुत जोर से मैं यह बात कहना चाहता हूं कि थोड़ा इधर भी ध्यान देना चाहिए। हम लोगों को गाइड करते हैं—जो हम देश के लीडर कहलाते हैं। हम गाइड करते हैं। इसलिए मैं कहूंगा कि सबसे पहले पापुलेशन को कंट्रोल करें। फिर देश के करप्शन को कंट्रोल करिए। उसके बाद फिर देश के लेबर क्लास पर हमें जोर देना चाहिए न कि अपर क्लास पर। एक जगह तनख्वाह 35 हजार पर मन्थ है, एक जगह जो काम करने वाला है उसकी 35 रुपया पर मन्थ है। इसलिए इन सब चीजों पर ध्यान दें आनरेबुल मिनिस्टर साहब आपके जरिए। मैं धन्यवादी हूं कि आपने मुझे टाइम दिया और ये गौर करें।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Goradia, your party's time is over. May I make a suggestion, instead of giving you five minutes? Is it your maiden speech?

SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA (Gujarat): Under your chairmanship, yes.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What I feel is that tomorrow or the day after, we are going to take up the Finance Bill. I would like you to make your speech then so that we can give you more time. Now, it is 5.30. We have exceeded the time and the Finance Minister has to reply.

SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Madam, if you like, I will make very, very quick points. I have got them written down. It won't take much time.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Five minutes?

SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Yes, yes, whatever you say.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, five minutes.

SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Since you have decided to punish Peter for the luxury of Paul, I offer my... ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. I want to correct you. I was continuously telling Mr. T.N. Chaturvedi to leave some time for his colleague. He did not. You go and fight with him in the Lobby. You should go and punish him outside. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Madam Deputy Chairperson, as I have said, I have the honour to speak under your helmsmanship for the first time. To an extent, I know, with the changing time you will be chivalrous because, I think,

with women's empowerment we expect chivalry in reverse.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I wish the Bill comes and then I will show to you.

SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Thank you. I must begin with a compliment. I am going to go very fast and I will not take a lot of time of the House. I must compliment the hon. Finance Minister for his admirable democratic way in which he has tackled a very difficult economy for which he deserves full compliments. Therefore, we must pass the demand for grants that have been made by him. So much for the present. But, what about the future? It is difficult to talk about the future in the macro manner in which many of the earlier distinguished speakers have tackled the issue. So, I will come down to a very micro, minute example so that my submission will be quicker and also very much specific. The micro example I wish to take is that of Ministry of Industry. Having said that the grants should be passed, that is for the present, the future is not far. In about 7-8 months will come another Budget. 28th February, 1999 is not very far. We will again have a Budget. We will have another discussion and more discussions and debates and we will pass grants again. Hence, I worry about the future of the Ministry of Industry, for example. The Ministry of Industry, as I have understood, has four functions. One is supervision of small scale sector. The second is the superintending direction and control of 48 public sector units under its wing. The third function is industrial development. And, the fourth is licensing.

To take the functions backwards, licensing which was an enormous function in the old days has now reduced to six types of industries only. If you must hear, the names are very simple: alcoholic drinks, sugar, tobacco and cigarettes, explosives, hazardous chemicals and drugs and pharmaceuticals. Everything else has been delicensed as far as I know from the report of the Industry. As far as new public sector units, which means industrial development, is concerned, in this age of privatisation and globalisation. I do not think new public sector units are going to come up either in a big way or in such a hurry.

Going backwards again, as far as the 48 public sector units are concerned, there are 31 making heavy losses. The total losses are Rs. 1,388 crores in one year. The champion is a company called HCL with Rs. 175 crores of losses in one year. There is a super champion to the champion with Rs. 244 crores of losses, that is, HPF, the Photo Film company. On top of this comes the policy of disinvestment. The hon. Finance Minister himself has said that some units will be brought down to as little as 26% holding by the Government whereas many others which are absolutely unviable will be closed down. The point I am making is not discussing disinvestment so that the work of the Ministry of Finance is shrunk in all these three functions; the only function which has not shrunk is, perhaps, supervision of the small scale sector. Yet, from the figures I have got — I am not an expert — in 1990, that is before liberalisation began, the expenditure was, figures may be incorrect or inaccurate but the comparisons are valid. Rs. 1156 crores. In 1997 the Ministry spent Rs. 1903 crores and in 1998 the comparable figure is Rs. 1931 crores. So, from Rs. 1156 crores in 1990 when it was pre-liberalisation after liberalisation of seven or eight years the expenditure has gone up to Rs. 1931 crores, one and a half times or more. What I am trying to say....(*Interruptions*)... We will take it up separately.....(*Interruptions*).. We will take it up when discussion takes place on that. What I am trying to submit here is that a time must come when the 'urgent' must not keep on eating up the 'important'. The 'important' must not be sacrificed on the altar of the 'urgent'. I think we must have some strategic

thinking on that. Otherwise, we shall continue to remain where we are. Lastly, I would like to suggest that there is really nobody to look after the economic development *per se* as a whole-time job. The Finance Ministry does a lot of budgeting, more budgeting, taxation, revenue, deficit financing and I do not know how much leisure it would have to focus itself on the dynamics of the economic development. The Planning Commission has a lot of knowledge and a lot of information. But, it has no executive authority. So, perhaps some merger of ministries may be called for in order to achieve the economic development. And perhaps the merger itself might find an answer to these budgetary distortions that I have pointed out. On that happy note, may I once again thank you very much for bearing with me despite the lack of time. Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Madam Deputy Chairperson, I am extremly grateful to the Hon. Members of this House for having participated so effectively in this very lively debate that we had on the Appropriation Bill. Madam, for me it was a kind of a tricky situation because the other House passed the Appropriation Bill without discussion.....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: They discussed the Demands. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: They discussed the Demands; they discussed the Budget. In this House this discussion has fallen between the Budget discussion and the discussion on the Finance Bill. So, quite frankly, Madam, I was not quite sure what kind of issues will be raised in the course of the discussion and predictably all kinds of issues have been raised. My friend, Hon. Mr. Kumar, tried to focus attention on the fact that we were discussing the Appropriation Bill. But, I think coming as it did at the tenth place his intervention did not have much impact on the nature of the discussion. A wide variety of issues have been raised in the course of the debate and it will be my endeavour to answer as many of them as I can in the limited time at my disposal. But, I would like to make one point very clear. It has been suggested, it has been pointed out repeatedly that I have rolled back and I admitted as much in the other House when I said that I have been described as roll-back Sinha; Yashwant proposes, Sinha disposes and that kind of a think. But, I have some statistics here. In 1992 a number of amendments were made in the Finance Bill. I am talking of the Finance Bill of 1992 when a number of amendments where made in the orginal Finance Bill. I am not talking of a situation where only a few amendments were made. In the Finance Bill of 1992 there were 110 amendments made in the original Finance Bill and there were 25 amendments made at the time of getting the Finance Bill passed by the Government. Out of these ten were substantive amendments. In the Finance Bill of 1997, there were 76 original amendments, subsequently 34 amendments were moved by the Government out of which 16 were substantive amendments. In the Finance Bill of 1998, which I had presented, there were 101 amendments in the original Finance Bill, subsequently 48 amendments were suggested by the Government and out of which only 14 were substantive amendments. Now, you are aware, Madam Deputy Chairperson, the Budget making exercise, in our system, is surrounded in total secrecy. It is only when the Finance Minister presents the Budget before Parliament that Hon. Memebrs of Parliament, the media, the Chambers of Commerce and industry, trade associations, get an opportunity to respond, to react and to express their opinion. Therefore, it is not at all unusual for Finance Bills to be changed or altered in the light of

suggestions received and this is the essence of democracy. I do not think that there is anything that I should or any of my predecessors should be ashamed of that we have made changes. Yes, We have made changes. We have responded to suggestions, we have responded to criticism and we have been sensitive. This is what Governments are all about. I would not like to quote what Mr. Churchill had said. He said, "Consistency is the quality of a certain kind of animal." Well, when Mr. Vayalar Ravi was speaking on behalf of the Congress Party, it was sounding like a music to my ears because he was not talking of the language of the last six or seven years. He was, perhaps, talking the language when Mr. Pranab Mukherjee was the Finance Minister. That was the language he was talking about. If I could quote, he said, "Let us not bother about the BOP." Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta has said, "What is the position of the BOP? How much foreign exchange have we lost?"

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: It is not the only issue.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: You said that it is not the only issue. Which means, we should not be, perhaps, over-concerned. You said, "Do not kill the Indian industry." This is exactly what I said in the other House when I was replying to the Finance Bill, that I do not want new industry to grow on the ruins of old industry; that we must not necessarily destroy the existing industries in order to build new industries. I have been wrongly criticised in a section of the media for that line. That was the line which most of us believed in and I still believe in it. I would like to put some doubts at rest. What is the philosophy behind this expenditure statement that I have presented to the House and for which I want an appropriation. The philosophy is very clear and we are in no doubt about it nor would I like the House and the people of this country to have any doubt on the thrust of that. I think, I had made that point when I was replying to the Budget debate. The emphasis of the Government is on agriculture, it is on rural development, it is on rural infrastructure, it is on small scale industries, it is on infrastructure and it is on housing. These are the areas which we have picked up as thrust areas and that is why I do not have to quote figures because these are well known. We have increased allocation in regard to these sectors. It was open to me, like it was open to my predecessors, to cut back on this. If I had reduced or if I had not increased the expenditure on agriculture, I would have been criticised. But, you know, nothing much would have happened and I would have happily kept the fiscal deficit down. Why is that we have increased the Plan expenditure by something like 19%, which as I said earlier, is the second most massive increase in the last ten years? I could have saved those Rs. 12,000 crores and reduced my fiscal deficit by something like 1% or 0.80% or 0.75% and I would have earned kudos in this country and abroad from those who watch the fiscal deficit and they would have given me the credit for the fact that I have been able to reduce the fiscal deficit. But, it was a difficult choice and deliberately we have settled for one of the two choices. One was, keep fiscal deficit down at any cost, by freezing expenditure on development, and the other was, go ahead and spend on development. And this is exactly what we decided. We will go ahead and spend on development. Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, is not here. To quote him, "We cannot spend our way to prosperity." I agree with him. We cannot spend our way to prosperity by spending on consumption expenditure. But, we would certainly spend out way to prosperity if investment expenditure is properly directed. And that is the thrust of this whole expenditure statement is presented to this House. The thrust is on development expenditure. Why is it that we have increased agricultural outlays by 58 per cent? Why is it that we have given

emphasis to watershed development? Have we paid attention to watershed development in this country? We have not paid the kind of attention, which should have been paid, to the development of agriculture for better productivity in this country. The watershed development has unfortunately not received the kind of attention which was necessary. We have increased allocations for watershed development. And I promise to this House that we shall continue to do so in every successive Budget until we have solved the problem of water for agriculture in this country. This is the thrust which this Government would like to give to development because we have realised it. I entirely agree with Mr. Vayalar Ravi and other Members of this House that unless the base of Indian economy, namely, agriculture and rural development is taken care of, you just cannot have a prosperous economy in this country. That is where raw materials come from, that is where demand come from. It is not only good politics, but it is also good economics to pay attention to rural areas. That is what we have done. But, at the same time, we have not neglected other sectors. It is not our case that we would like to neglect industry, or we would like to neglect any other sector of the economy. Therefore, for industry also there is a lot in this Budget through public sector. Now, when we are talking of industry, we are talking of infrastructure. What is the problem that we face? Previous Governments had followed a certain policy, and that policy was, let all these problems be taken care of by the private sector. The private sector will spend on infrastructure. The private sector will spend on industrial development. And the Government will take care of things like human resource development, education, health and family welfare. These are the things on which the Government must spend its money and the private sector will come in the field of industry. Now, the experience of the last seven years has not been very nappy. Why has it not been very happy? It has not been very happy because we could not sort out our own problems within the Government. We could not streamline our procedure. We could not bring ourselves to take expeditious decisions. That is the reason why those projects could not go through. They were held up. And I am sorry to be repeating myself when I say, look at what happened to the fast-track projects. Fast-track power projects remain pending for five years and nobody could say 'yes' or 'no' in the Government. We have been in power only for four months. And we are determined to go ahead. We are determined to streamline our procedure. We are determined to ensure that we take decisions. If there is any doubt in any one's mind, I would like to mention that the Prime Minister had appointed a task force on information technology. That task force gave its report within six weeks' time. And we, in the Goverrnment, had acted on that within days of the receipt of the recommendations of the task force. The other day in that House I had announced a slew of measures in regard to development of information technology in this country. We want to move ahead even on fast-track projects. I have spent hours and hours of my time, trying to sort out the complications which had been left behind for us in legacy. We are trying to do our best. This will be the direction. What shall we do? We shall clear expeditiously all the private sector investment proposals, so that they take off. We shall, at the same time, make sure that the public sector of this coutnry moves ahead. I would like my friends, who sit in the middle of this House, to please take note of it. It is nobody's case that the private sector has not played a very, very constructive role in the development of this country. It is nobody's case that the public sector must necessarily be destroyed. It is not our case. We have, therefore, decided that we shall enable the public sector in this country to make massive investments in infrastructure.

To make massive investment in infrastructure 35 per cent is the allocation, that is the increase in allocation in this year's Budget. What was it last year? It was two per cent. What was it before last year? It was four per cent. That was the kind of increase in expenditure in the Budget. This year it has been 35 per cent. Now, it is very easy to criticise me and say that you have provided for all this, but you will not be able to implement it. I am glad my senior colleague, Mr. T.N. Chaturvedi, in his intervention has emphasised the problem of implementation. It is a very important problem. It is not that I am not aware of it. I am deeply conscious of the fact that the malady of the Government of India's system is its total lack of accountability in regard to implementation. If it was not so—I was just looking at the figures—we have over 200 schemes which have remained pending for year and years. Madam Deputy Chairman, do you know what is the overrun in terms of money? It is Rs. 45,000 crores. That is the kind of overrun locked up in these. There is time overrun, cost overrun. Why? Because we are not monitoring and that is why I am happy to inform this august House that we have decided at the level of the Prime Minister that we shall monitor each and every scheme in order to make sure that there is no time overrun, there is no cost overrun, and that they are performed, they are completed within the stipulated time. There is time overrun, there is cost overrun. But, why should there be a material overrun? Why should the amount of steel, the quantity of steel in that project overrun? Why should the quantity of cement overrun? Because the projects have not been prepared properly. Therefore, these are the areas in which we are moving in order to make sure that the economy runs. Now, what is the problem? I did not have a clean slate to write on. I inherited an economy which was suffering from many problems. Therefore, the most important task before me was to take steps in order to impart dynamism and momentum to this economy which was caught in a slow down phase. This is the way in which we wish to impart dynamism and momentum to that economy. When we increase expenditure, then, naturally, the demand will pick up. Fortunately, there are signs that the economy is picking up. I would not like to waste the time of the House by quoting a number of statistics. But, Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta was saying that Income Tax officers have been transferred. I will come to that question. He said, 'if you go round transferring Income Tax officers, then your collection will suffer.' I would like to assure Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta that the collection will not suffer. And if I can quote some figures, the direct tax receipts in the three months of this financial year some figures, the direct tax receipts in the three months of this financial year have increased by 25 per cent over the same period last year. Twenty five per cent is the increase and out of this 60 per cent is the increase in Corporate tax—sixty per cent more over last year. Now, this is the kind of figures that one is getting. Obviously, for various reasons the Customs Department is not doing very well, but in excise there has been an increase over last year. I have various indices here which show that manufacturing and core industries are showing some signs of recovery and I am confident that as we go along in this year, these trends will only be strengthening instead of weakening.

Export continues to be an area of concern. It was referred to in this House. Mr. Vayalar Ravi also referred to it. There is a crisis. The external environment has become very adverse. It is not merely because of the sanctions. I was quoting some figures in the other House, let us not put everything at the door of sanctions which have been imposed. When the East Asian crisis came, there was a pressure on the rupee. What happened? As a result of the pressure on the rupee, we not only lost foreign exchange in trying to defend the rupee, the value of the rupee also came down.

Now, you were saying that because of the sanctions, because of the Budget, because of this, that and the other, the foreign institutional investors are running away from the country. Is this a new trend? I have figures here. In November, in the wake of the East Asian crisis, there was a net outflow of 111 million dollars. In December, there was a net outflow of 155 million dollars. In January, 1998, there was a net outflow of 82 million dollars. In February and March, it was positive. There was a net outflow of 25 million dollars in April. There was a net outflow of 216 million dollars in May. There was a net outflow of 207 million dollars in June.

If the sanctions and the Budget are responsible for scaring away the foreign investors, why should it come down in the month of July? In the month of July—I have the figures here up to the middle of July—the net outflow is only 0.80 million dollars, i.e. 800,000 dollars. The trend has been arrested.

At the same time, let us not forget that the East Asian crisis which we had hoped would go away, unfortunately, has persisted. There is a crisis in Japan. There is a crisis in Russia. All these are impacting adversely on the Indian situation also. When we go round and globalise, we have to bear with its effect also. We have been singing the praise of globalisation. Kindly remember that when we globalise, we are exposing ourselves to the external factors. We are no more a protected economy. Therefore, with our doors and windows open, these foreign influences will work and they will impact on our economy. There is no way in which we can say: 'This is adverse; therefore, we will repel this. This is favourable; therefore, only this we will accept'. In a globalised economy, you have to take the good with the bad. Therefore, this is what is happening.

Now, Madam Chairperson, a number of issues have been raised in regard to the sick public sector undertakings. Mr. Dipankar Mukherjee had put a number of questions. Madam, I could do no better than quote from the West Bengal Government's Industrial Policy Statement of 23rd September, 1994. What does it say? It says: 'In the case of sick industrial units in the private sector, the policy of the State Government is to see that such units are reopened and rehabilitated properly, at the earliest, either through the existing management, or, through induction of new promoters, or, wherever necessary, with appropriate sacrifices on the part of all concerned, including the State Government, the financial institutions and the labour'. 'Appropriate sacrifices on the part of the labour'. I entirely agree with this. Appropriate sacrifies will have to be made.

What is it that I have said? The question is: wherever, repeatedly, it has been emphasised by study after study that a particular unit cannot be revived, shall we continue to carry the burden on the Budget? Shall we continue to allow all these to drift? Your colleague in the other House raised the question in regard to various other undertakings. The point is, unfortunately, there has been a policy of drift. We have to pick up courage and say: 'Well; this far and no further'. We will have to say: 'This is where we stop'. We will have to say: 'We will give labour the best possible deal, but we have to close this unit'. This is the courage that I have tried to demonstrate through this Budget. And I expect you to co-operate with me.

I had said while replying to the Budget debate. It cannot be anybody's case that this burden should be borne by the common people. By whom should this burden be borne? The Finance Minister does not pick up money from some tree which grows at the North Block. It all comes from the pocket of the poor people of this country who are paying for it.

6 P.M.

In response to a Calling Attention motion, the then Finance Minister made a statement in August, 1997 in this

House, and we have the figures here. Something like Rs. 1,000 crores every year is going through the budget on the upkeep of these units which, the Government knows, the industry knows, the units know and the labour knows, cannot be revived. Shall we continue with this policy of drift? I am asking you in all humility. Shall we continue with this policy of drift? Shall we continue to provide

Rs. 1,000 crores, Rs. 1,200 crores or Rs. 800 crores in our budget after budget for payment to labour who, unfortunately, have no work? The time has come when this whole country, this whole House and everyone else concerned, must think about it seriously.

I am telling you what the policy of this Government is in regard to the public sector. Wherever possible, public sector units shall be strengthened. They shall be made into world leaders. We shall continue to support the public sector. It will be our endeavour to revive those public sector units which can be revived. But those units which cannot be revived, must necessarily close down. We must be able to give the best possible deal to the labour, to the work force in those units and call it a day. This is the policy of this Government. For this, we shall go unit by unit. The same broom will not sweep everything. We shall go unit by unit, making our assessment and taking appropriate action in regard to each unit.

The question of disinvestment was raised. Disinvestment is something which is not new. This is not something which I have started in this Budget. Disinvestment has been going on. Good, bad and indifferent, in whatever form, disinvestment has been going on. But, I will agree with one sentiment which has been expressed in this House. That is that disinvestment proceeds should not become only a means of budgetary subvention. That is a wrong policy. It should not be merely to see that my fiscal deficit goes down and, therefore, I will disinvest Rs. 5,000 crores worth of public sector shares or Rs. 10,000 crores worth of public sector shares. No, Disinvestment must be part of the overall restructuring package of the public sector. It is the BJP, our Party, which said that the Disinvestment Commission should be set up, and we welcomed it when the previous Government set up the Disinvestment Commission. We are committed to strengthening the Disinvestment Commission. We are committed to giving the Disinvestment Commission the responsibility which it must have. At the same time, the process of disinvestment must go on, and the funds from disinvestment, I agree, should be earmarked for revival of those public sector units which can be revived. They should go for creation of new assets. This is something which I have said upfront, that we must be able to use the proceeds from the assets which previous generations have created for us in order to see that we create new assets for our people. That is where this money should go, restructuring of the existing PSUs, revival of the existing PSUs and creation of new assets. That is where this money will go. I can assure the House that it is not our intention to disinvest for the sake of disinvestment. Disinvestment for us, for this Government, is part of a total policy package. It is only through that that disinvestment will be done.

Madam Deputy Chairperson, as far as the statutory dues are concerned, we are aware of the fact that a number of units have violated the law of the land, and we are not responsible for it. We were not in power at that time. There was another Government in power, which you were supporting. If they have allowed the laws of the land to be violated, then, there it is. But I can assure you from my side to....

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Mr. Yashwant Sinha, under your leadership, the Government still continues to violate the laws.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I will tell you that wherever such a violation is taking place, we shall correct the situa-

tion. We shall come down heavily on anyone who is responsible for such violations.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Is this an assurance?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: This is an assurance. If I am speaking in the House, it is an assurance. I am conscious of this. I have been in this House for a long time to know what constitutes an assurance and what does not.

The point about performance and implementation, which my colleague, Mr. Chaturvedi, made, is very important.

That is one area, where, I assure the House, that this Government shall not be found wanting. The moment we get the Budget through in this Session of Parliament, we are going to sit down to concretise every general idea in the Budget in a concrete programme of action. It will be our endeavour to ensure that we do this.

Mr. S.S. Surjewala was making a point about the plight of the farmers. A number of other Members also spoke about it. I have already said about this in my Budget speech that this Government is determined to create conditions so that no farmer goes to jail for loan repayment default or is forced to commit suicide. "The Reserve Bank of India will be issuing appropriate guidelines to the banks for hassle-free settlement of old cases of overdue. Banks will be encouraged to provide appropriate relief on a cumulated interest in deserving cases." This is what I said. The Reserve Bank of India is busy formulating the scheme so that we obviate the difficulties of the Indian farmers.

Now, I come to implementation. Madam, the previous Government had started two schemes — Kasturba Gandhi Shiksha Yojna and Mahila Samriddhi Yojna. Not a single paisa was spent under these two schemes. What is the point in announcing schemes in the Budget, when you are not going to implement it? One whole year has passed, but not a single paisa was spent. That is why I said in the Budget that we will combine the two. This is receiving our attention. We will have a very very effective scheme for the girl child in the country.

We were talking about fertiliser subsidy, this and that. I do not know whether it has been noticed by any one. All of us, who go abroad from time to time, are aware of the fact that in developed countries we come across shops which advertise that the agricultural produce that they are selling has not used chemical fertilisers; that they have used bio-fertilisers. I think, this major initiative in the Budget has gone completely unnoticed. I have said in Part B of my speech: "I also propose to make activities, which encourage the production of bacteria-induced fertilisers eligible for one hundred per cent deduction under Section 35(A) (C) of the Income-Tax Act." We want to encourage bio-fertilisers. I am requesting Members of the House let us take advantage of this concession that I have given in the Budget and let us set up more and more bio-fertilisers units. Let them come up. We are all aware that they will lead to far greater production than the use of chemical fertilisers. That is a proven fact. We are busy formulating the steps, when we come up with national agricultural policy, we will say specifically what steps we are taking to restore the balancing of neutrients. It is not that we have forgotten after the roll back of urea prices. We have not forgotten it. We are aware of the problem. But I am telling you simultaneously that with the restoration of that balance, we will also encourage the use of bio-fertilisers.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It will also help the bio-gas plants for cooking gas.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: It will, Madam.

Prof. Das asked what we were doing about Health and Family Welfare programmes. I would just like to refer to the figures. Revised Estimate in the year

1997-98 for Health and Welfare was Rs. 2,747 crores. In my Budget, the allocation has been raised to Rs. 3,685 crores. Similarly, in the non-Plan also, from Rs. 639 crores, it has been raised to Rs. 712 crores. It is not that I am not aware of the fact that Health and Family Welfare must receive our attention.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Unfortunately, for the population control, they are not doing much to have effective compaigns. That is one of the major issues that I referred to.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I will take note of that point.

Mr. Vayalar Ravi made a point that we must reduce imports and encourage exports. By all means we must encourage exports, but the W.T.O. obligation prohibits us from imposing fresh quantitative restrictions on imports.

You are aware of the fact that we are in difficulty in regard to the existing quantitative resrictions and we are fighting a case in the WTO. I agree with you entirely that consumerism should not be encouraged. We are determined to see that while consumers' statisfaction is ensured, we do not fall in the trap of a consumerist society. That will be the framework of the Government. You have mentioned about the problem of rubber. My colleague, the Commerce Minister has already formulated a scheme for purchasing rubber in the public sector, in Kerala. I hope that purchase is going on well so that the problem of our rubber growers is solved.

Now, I will come—Madam, I know that you are also in a hurry—to the last point inflation and sanctions are something which I have covered in the other House. So, I am not taking the time of this House. I will only come to the last point which has been made by Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta in regard to the transfer of the tax officials. I remember in this House one day, I was answering questions on that. We had spent a lot of time discussing the transfer of Income Tax officials. I would like to completely disabuse anyone's mind including that of Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta. Madam, let us not have a fixation in regard to one particular officer and say as long as that officer is there, the investigations will proceed and the moment that officer is transferred investigations will fall behind. What is the reasons for us to have such a touching faith in one particular officer? It is true that we have decided because we want better tax compliance and I am putting a lot of pressure on the Income Tax Department to deliver the goods. It is true that we have decided that we will eschew transfers, as far as possible. That is why there were no transfers of Income Tax Commissioners and Chief Income Tax Commissioners in the first quarter. In the second quarter, against 60 or 70 transfers which take place every year, something like 25 transfers have been done mainly to accommodate personal requests and some immediate administrative exigencies and things of that kind. Now, I would like to assure the House like I did that day when I was answering supplementaries on that question...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I had referred to a particular circular. I appreciate the policy statement of the Finance Minister. But I have referred to a particular circular issued by the Member (Personnel) of the CBDT. Within 8 days of issuing a circular such mass transfers took place. What could be the reason?

Secondly, I am sharing with you another apprehension that the Chief Commissioner of the Income Tax stationed at Chennai is sought to be transferred. What could be reason for that? Your Department is going back on its own circular.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think it is not proper. I would not like any Member to refer to one or two individual transfers.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I am not referring to any individual transfer ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is no debate on it. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, please don't interrupt the Finance Minister.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, I am not referring to any individual case ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not referring to any individual case. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not referring to any individual case. But I am referring to a circular issued by his Department. I am not referring to an individual transfer of an officer. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down....*(Interruptions)*... I am not listening to anything. Let the Minister complete his reply.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Income Tax Officers were transferred following that circular.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Government has to issue some circular somewhere.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam, if anyone wishes to have a repeat of discussion on this issue, I am prepared for it. We have issued the circular. If the Member (Administration) has issued a circular ...*(Interruptions)*... Who is the Member (Administration)? He is the creature of the Government. Isn't he the creature of the Government? Couldn't that circular be issued with my full authority? It is again with my full authority that those transfers have taken place. There is no violation. It is not our intention to influence any case by those tansfers. The officer you are referring to, had asked for his transfer. He had completed his tenure. That is why he has been transferred.

Madam, this is an august House. We are Council of States. Let us not waste our time in discussing the transfer of a Deputy Commissioner here and a Chief Commissioner there. Who are these people?

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Day before yesterday, *The Statesman* has given much importance to it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt him.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: That transfer is not a simple, usual, transfer. We cannot take it as that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt. Yes, Mr. Minister.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam, I would like to once again assure the House that as far as the administration of the Tax Department is concerned, it will be the endeavour of this Government to ensure that free and fair play takes place and that justice is done all around. Why is it that we have said "SARAL, SAMMAN, SAMADHAN"? Because we want 'SAMMAN' for the tax-payer. We want the tax-payer to be honoured, to be an honoured citizen, because he is paying the tax which pays for you, which pays for me, which pays for this Government, which pays for the development schemes. That is why he or she deserves to be honoured, deserves 'SAMMAN'. Now, the philosophy is very clear, and I am quite sure as long as I am sitting in this Chair, I am the Finance Minister of the country, I can assure you that no wrong doing shall be permitted and please let me carry conviction on that score. Madam Deputy Chairperson,... *Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No interruption, please. Let him finish.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: On expenditure management, an issue which has been raised by various Hon. Members is that there should be an Expenditure Management Commission. My predecessor had suggested it. He could not implement it. There are practical problems in implementing the suggestion of Expenditure Management

Commission. We are examining that issue. Whenever we are ready with all the pros and cons and I can come before the House and take the House into confidence, I will tell you what exactly the decision of the Government is.

With these words, Madam, I commend that the Appropriation Bill be returned by the House.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1998-99, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 4 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam, I move:

That the Bill be returned."

The Motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 11 o'clock tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at eighteen minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Tuesday, the 21st July, 1998.